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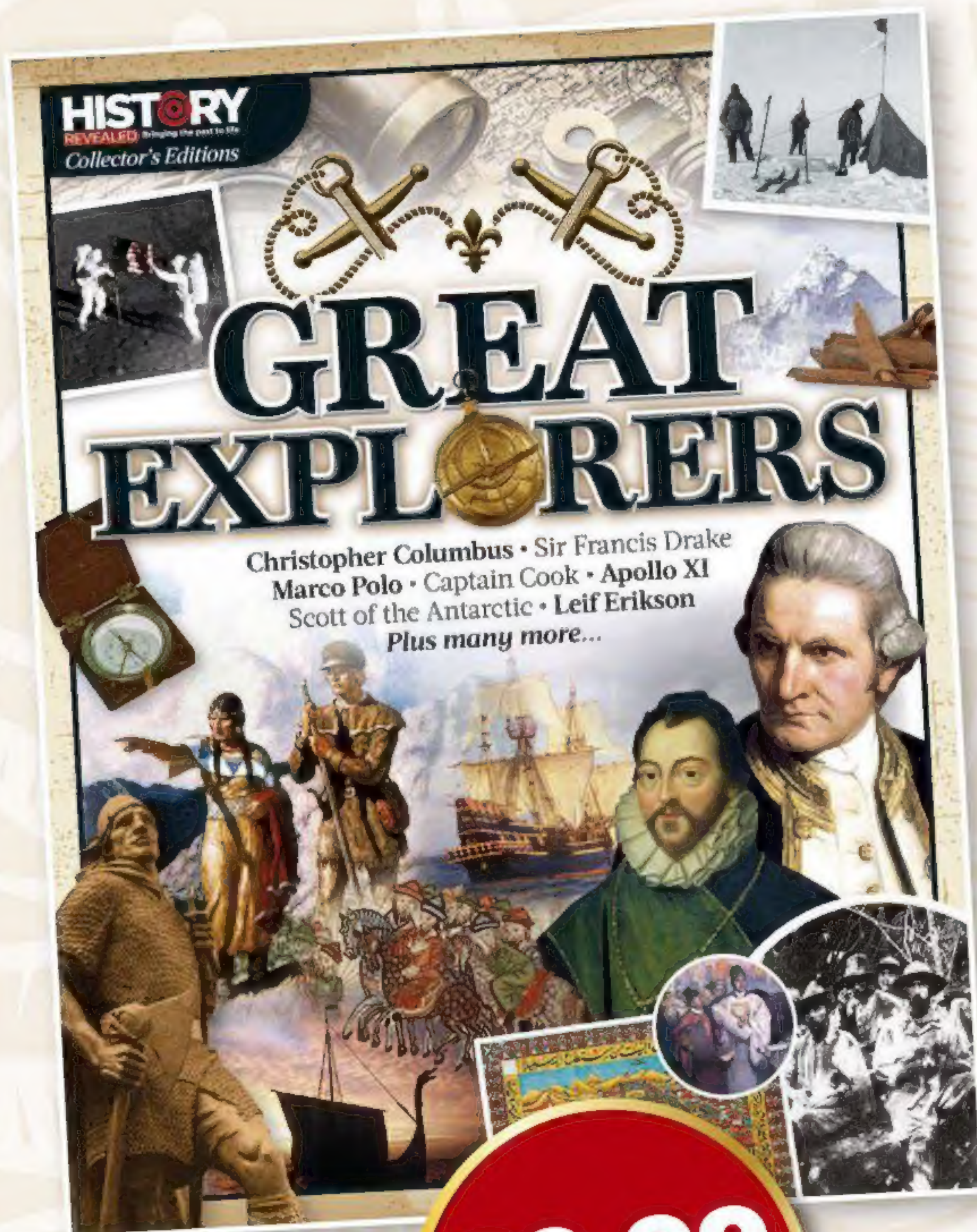
## 2

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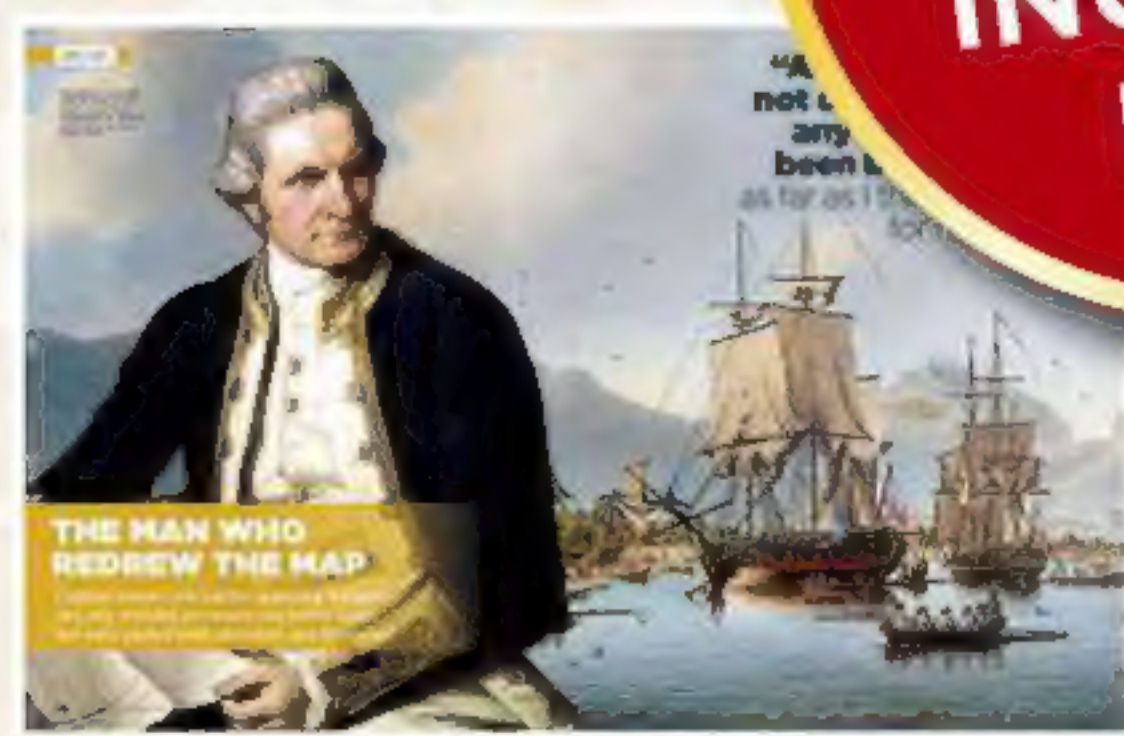
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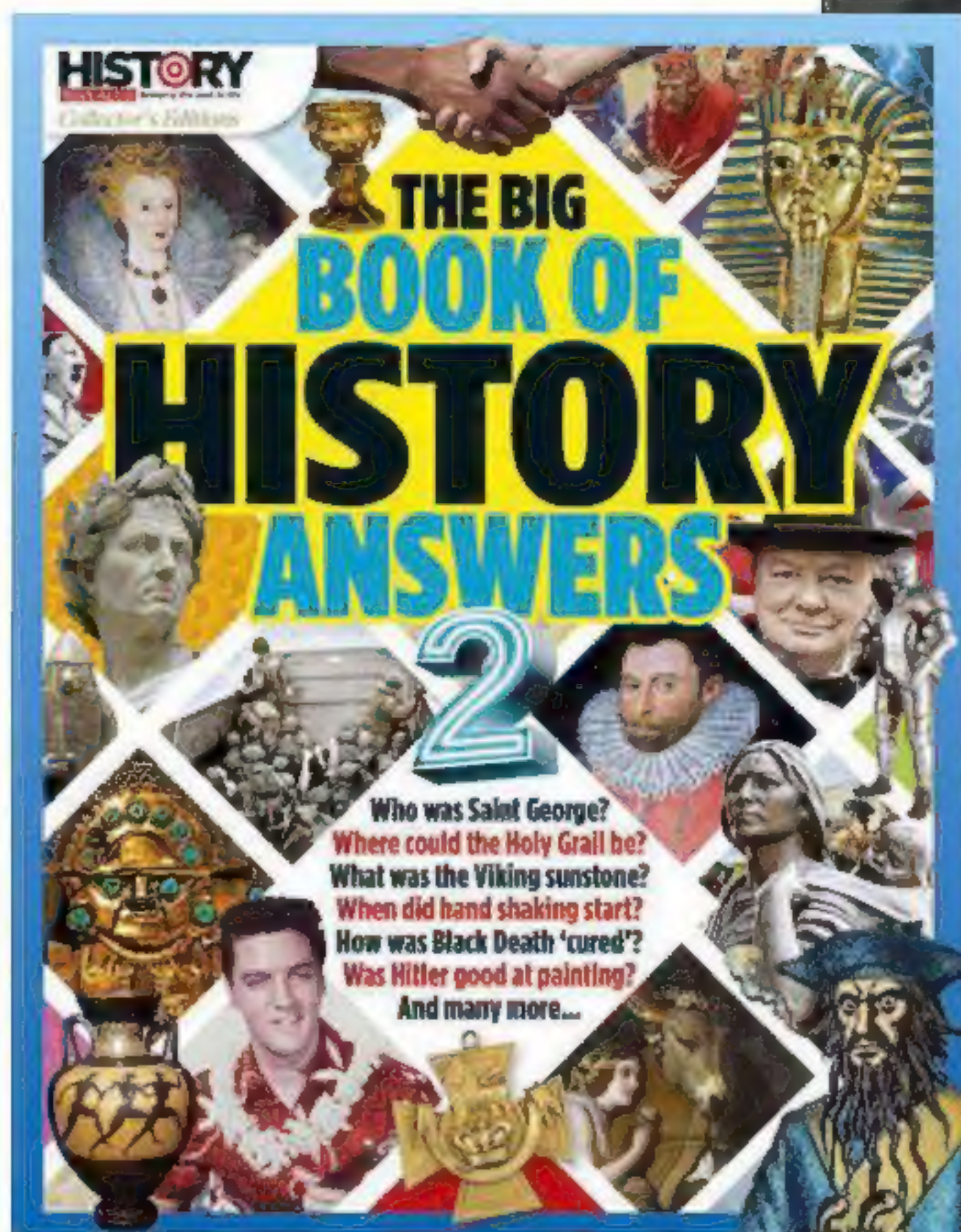
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# Welcome



There are just too many historical oddities to reveal and incredible stories needing debunking that they couldn't all possibly fit within the confines of a single special edition. So here it is: ***The Big Book of History Answers 2***.

Inside, **our crack team of history brainiacs** plunges into the annals once again to root out the answers to those questions that have always niggled, and perhaps some you didn't even know you wanted to ask.

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That's not all! If you want a monthly top-up of historical questions and conundrums answered by our experts, turn to **page 112 for details of how to subscribe to *BBC History Revealed***.

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*Charlotte*

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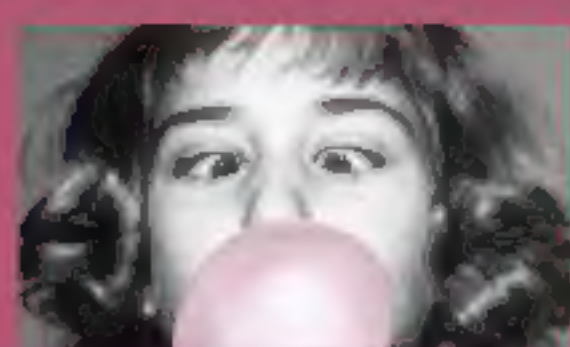


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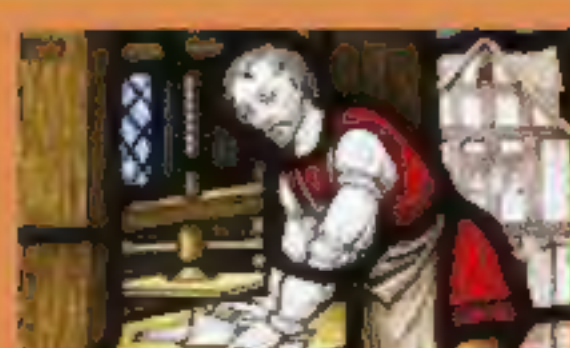
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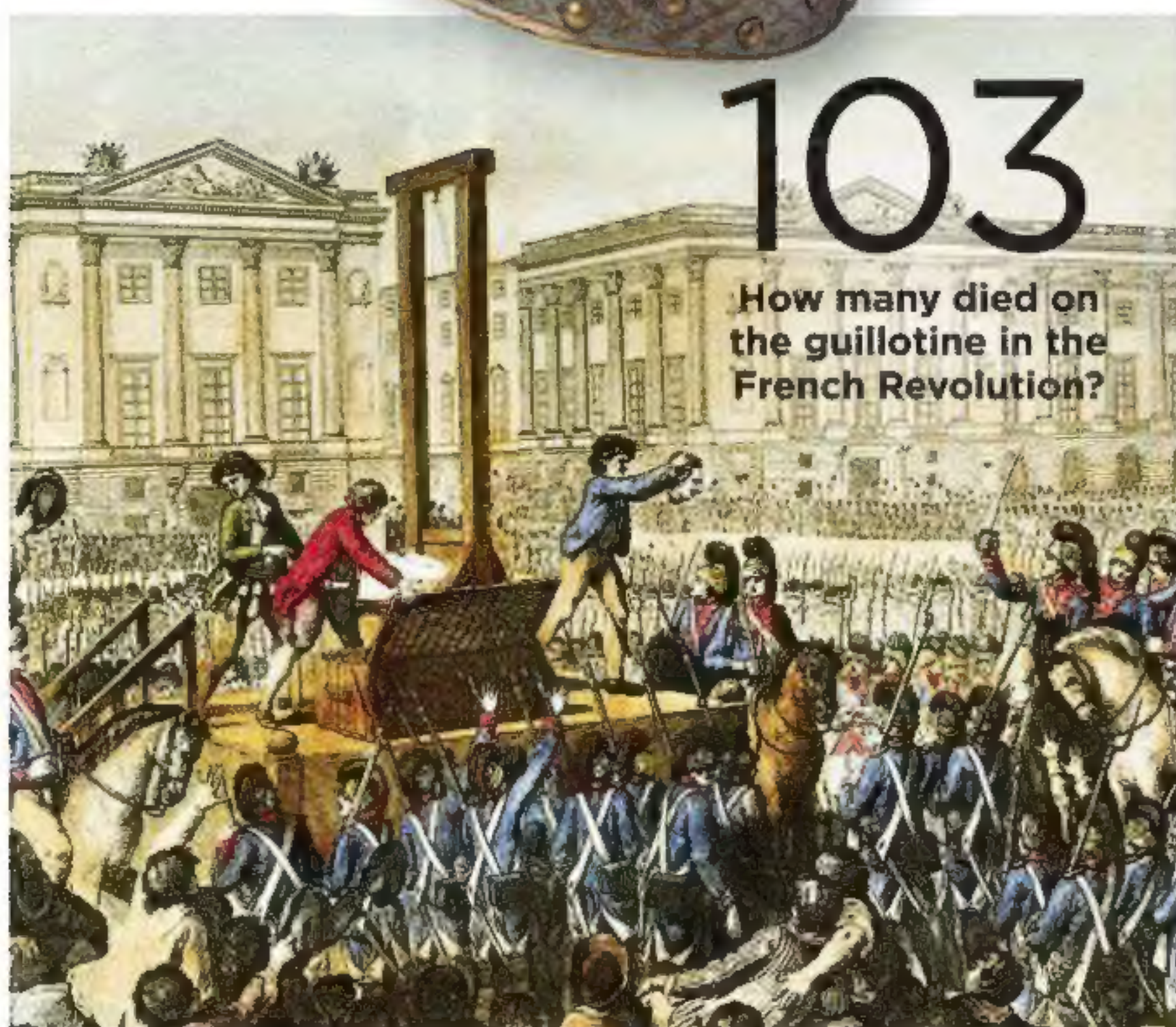


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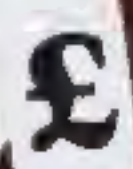


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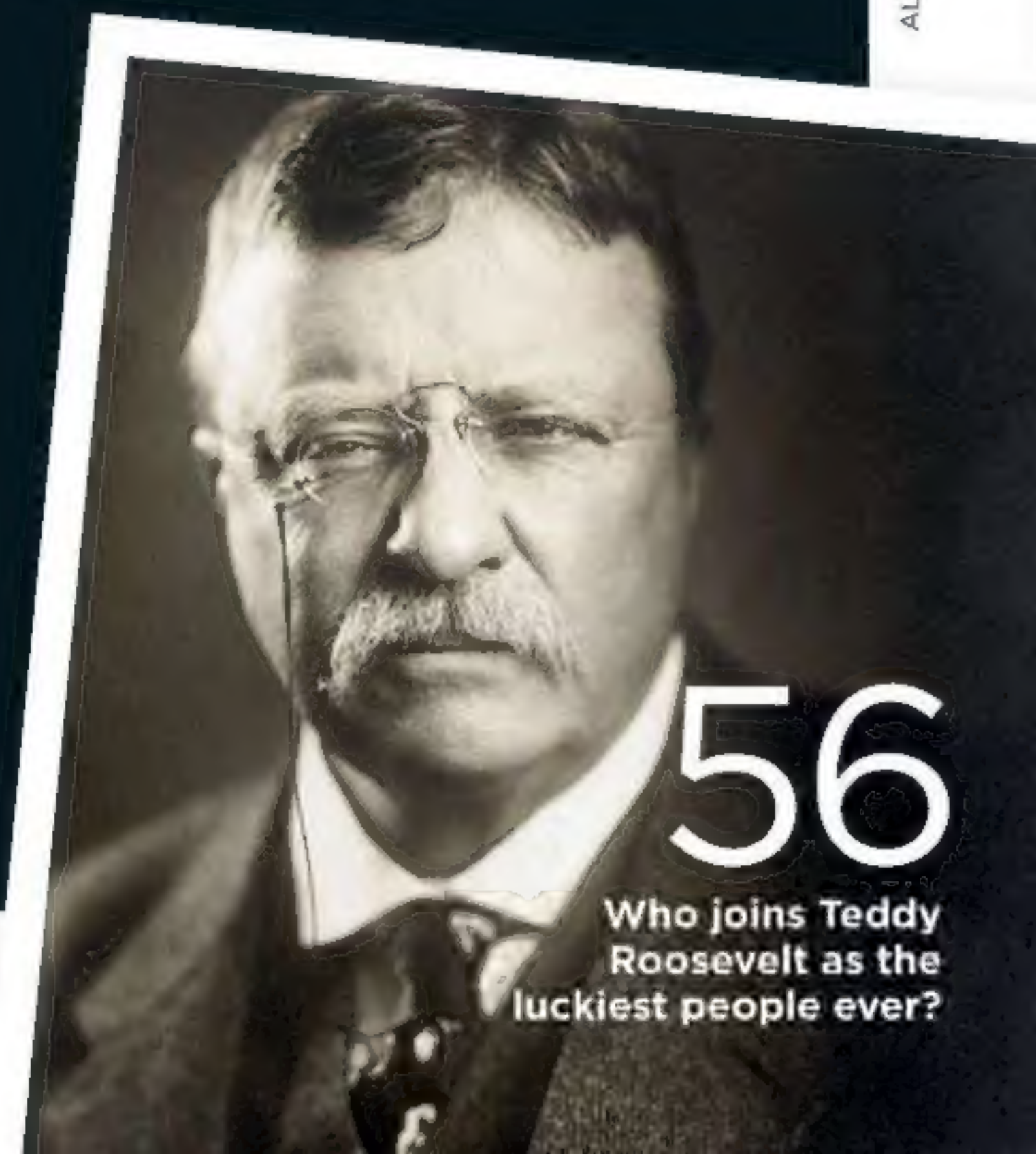
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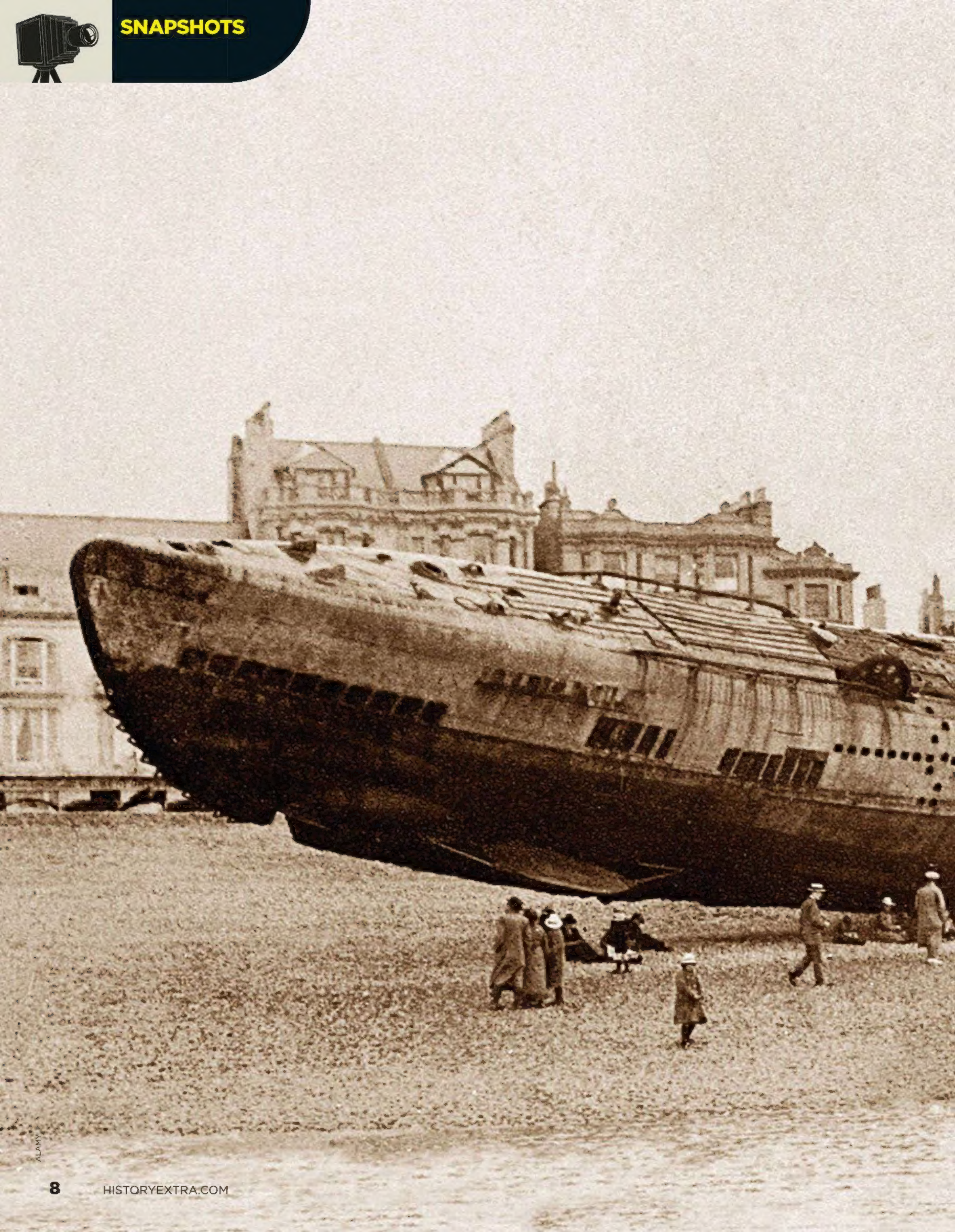




# IS THIS A CRASH OR A GAME?

Horses were replaced by horsepower in the fast, frantic and frankly dangerous sport of automobile polo. Popularised in the United States in the early 20th century, it had simple rules. A team consisted of two cars - stripped of all nonessentials like doors, roofs or windshields - each carrying two players, a driver and a malletman. The aim was to hit a basketball with a croquet mallet into the opposition goal - easier said than done with the cars tearing around at 40mph. Spectacular crashes were frequent, as were broken bones.







# HOW DID THIS GET HERE?

Five months after World War I hostilities ended, the people of Hastings woke up to quite a sight on 15 April 1919. While on its way to the scrapyard, the German U-boat SM U-118 had broken free of its tow and washed up on the beach in front of the Queens Hotel. Tractors attempted to drag it back to sea, and a destroyer even tried to break it apart with cannons, but to no avail. The stubborn sub became a tourist hotspot, with many paying a fee to clamber aboard the vessel that had sunk two British ships less than a year before.







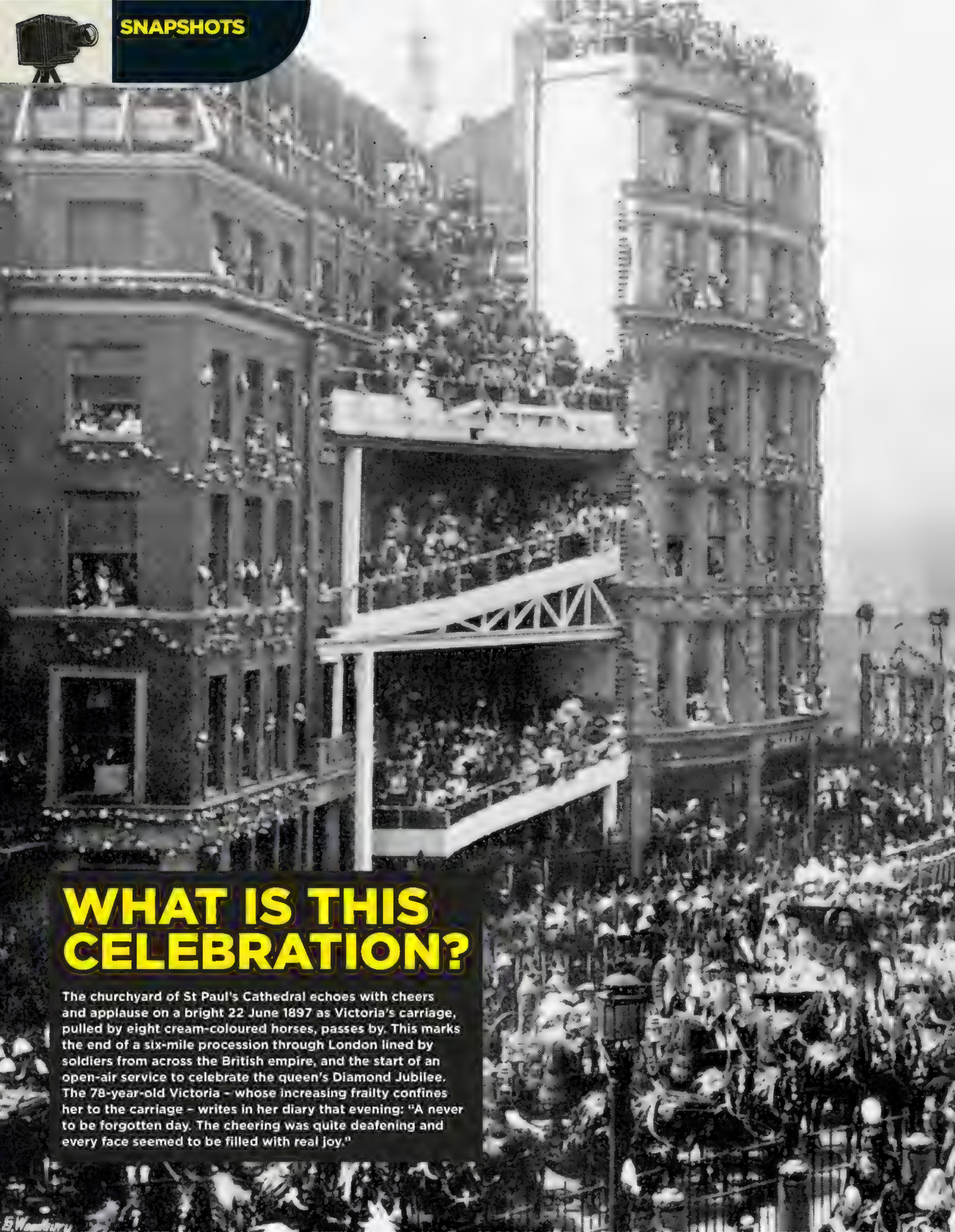
# WHY ARE THESE WOMEN BEING ARRESTED?

A sunny day, in 1922, at the beach in Chicago is ruined for two women when police drag, carry and bundle them into the back of a van. Their crime? Wearing bathing suits that are banned for showing too much flesh. Old-fashioned attitudes towards preserving modesty take a while, and more arrests, to ease. Even after the one-piece is introduced, officers patrol the sands with tape measures to make sure costumes aren't too high above the knee.









## WHAT IS THIS CELEBRATION?

The churchyard of St Paul's Cathedral echoes with cheers and applause on a bright 22 June 1897 as Victoria's carriage, pulled by eight cream-coloured horses, passes by. This marks the end of a six-mile procession through London lined by soldiers from across the British empire, and the start of an open-air service to celebrate the queen's Diamond Jubilee. The 78-year-old Victoria – whose increasing frailty confines her to the carriage – writes in her diary that evening: "A never to be forgotten day. The cheering was quite deafening and every face seemed to be filled with real joy."







# THE ANCIENT WORLD

## HOW MANY ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED FROM **THE CURSE OF TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB?**

**🎯** Following excavations at Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, beginning in 1922, a spate of deaths caused wild speculation about a supposed curse. The team was headed by archaeologist Howard Carter, and the discovery attracted journalists and well-to-do tourists. For a decade, the obituaries of those who entered the tomb were splashed across the newspapers as evidence of the Pharaoh's vengeance. It began with the death of Lord Carnarvon – amateur Egyptologist and financial backer of the excavation – in April 1923, from an infected mosquito bite. When asked about the curse, Carter wouldn't comment (though it was remarked that he looked quite sick himself).

Seven years later, one newspaper identified a further 14 victims – including Carter's secretary and the radiologist who x-rayed the mummy – plus six unnamed French journalists. Causes of death ranged from murder and suicide to mystery illness and motor accident. In reality, most lived long lives, but the story was recalled with the death of Carter himself in 1939, in his 60s, and even a colleague who died at the grand age of 80.

DO YOU  
**KNOW?**  
KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

**DO NOT DISTURB?**  
Despite the rumours, Tutankhamun's tomb does not really have any curses inscribed on its walls



**ARR WE FIRST?**  
Forget the Caribbean,  
pirates go back to  
Ancient Egypt

## Who were the **first pirates?**



**Target** For as long as there has been commerce at sea, there have been pirates looking to get rich quick (and disappear from the authorities) by attacking defenceless ships. Greek merchants were regularly plagued by 'sea brigands' and no less a character than Julius Caesar was once held hostage by pirates in 75 BC. After his release, he hunted their ship down and had them all crucified.

The earliest reference to pirates, however, is that of the 'Sea People', a confederacy of raiding groups who brought terror to the eastern Mediterranean. They were finally destroyed by the Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses III in 1178 BC.

## WHAT WAS THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA?

**Target** The Great Library of Alexandria was the greatest archive in the ancient world, housing nearly 500,000 individual texts, or so we are told. Built in the third century BC, it formed part of the world's first cultural and scientific research institute, the great Museum or Mouseion ('shrine to the muses') of Alexandria. Librarians enforced strict control over their stock: nothing was officially allowed out on loan, and all visitors to Alexandria would have any books in their possession immediately confiscated, to be added to the collection.



**FIRE POWER**  
The priestesses of Vesta, seen in this first-century-AD relief, held great power in Rome

## COULD **WOMEN IN ANCIENT ROME** HOLD ANY POWER?

**Target** Freeborn Roman women were not able to vote, hold political office or serve in the military, and only rarely owned land or businesses in their own right. Largely excluded from education, the women of Rome were forever subject to their fathers and husbands, to the point of having no legal rights over their own children.

That's not to say that they couldn't be successful in business and politics – take, for instance, Eumachia of Pompeii, an extremely wealthy magnate. Aside from

the wives and mothers of Roman emperors, who often held a significant amount of political influence, the only official high-ranking job open to women was religious. The vestals (who maintained the sacred fire of Rome) were of particularly high status.

The odds, however, were stacked against the women of Rome. When the empire encountered societies where women held positions of power, or were treated as equal to men, they were viewed by Romans as being profoundly 'barbarian'.





## HOW DID PEOPLE TELL TIME BEFORE CLOCKS?

Since prehistoric days, humans have measured time by watching the arc of the Sun across the horizon.

Ancient Egyptians used shadow-clocks to show the Sun's movement during the day, while at night they tracked the stars using sophisticated charts such as the Ramesside Star Clock. By the time of the Ancient Greeks, sundials, water-clocks and sand-timers provided more accuracy. But – perhaps strangely to us – timekeeping still mirrored the changeable

seasons, so during the Roman empire, an hour was longer (about 75 minutes) in the summer than in the winter (45 minutes) because there was more daylight in June than December. Even then, these figures weren't set in stone. The standardised 60-minute hour only arrived in the 14th century, possibly thanks to Arab scientist Ibn Al-Shatir, who calibrated his sundial to the Earth's polar axis.



### TOUGH AS NAILS

It would have needed larger tools than the ones below to trim these giant nails of Emperor Constantine



### CATCHING THE SUN

One benefit of a sundial – no annoying alarm clock noises!

## When was Mayan writing deciphered?

The decorative glyphs discovered on Mayan monuments were recognised as writing as early as the 17th century. Decipherment, however, did not really begin until the 1930s when the American linguist Benjamin Whorf suggested that the images were composed of symbols, each one representing syllables. Russian Yuri Knorozov reached a similar conclusion.

By the 1960s, important things like numbers and names of rulers could be distinguished, and in 1986 a conference of interested parties pooled their collective works and ideas together to finally crack the code. That said, a few isolated symbols still defy translation. In 2015, it is thought that about 90 per cent of Mayan texts and inscriptions can now be read accurately.

## HOW DID ANCIENT ROMANS TRIM THEIR NAILS?

It may be easy to keep one's fingernails trimmed by nibbling on them, but there are few adults dextrous, or disgusting, enough to get their toes anywhere near their mouths.

We know from Ancient Roman statues that it was fashionable to have nails short, and – as it wasn't elegant to cut one's own – this would have been done by slaves or public barbers, or tonsors. In the countryside, women known as *circitores* travelled around offering this service, as an ancient precursor to mobile hairdressers.

The barber's equipment included shears, razors, small blade knives, tweezers and a curved scoop for cleaning dirt under the nails. It's not clear which implement did the actual cutting, but the small knife seems to be the easiest to wield safely. As for modern nail clippers, the earliest patents date to the 1870s, meaning that the Roman techniques remained in use for centuries.

### PICTURE PUZZLE

Linguists were left looking like this befuddled man trying to read Mayan text





**THIS IS SPARTA!**  
Male Spartans dedicated their entire lives to the military



## HOW WERE THE SPARTAN WARRIORS TRAINED?

**🎯** In Ancient Sparta, all male citizens had to undergo a compulsory training regime, *agoge*, before joining the army. At seven, boys were placed in the care of the military and housed in barracks away from society. They were starved, deprived of comforts and taught – through brute force and severe punishment – to march, steal, fight and kill to defend the state. If they lived to 30 – not easy given that dying in battle was considered a basic duty – graduates could marry and produce the next generation of elite warriors.

YOU KNOW  
THAT ABOUT THAT?

**50,000**

## Did Roman men **dodge their military service?**

**🎯** Life in the Roman empire wasn't all banquets and festivals as, for the men at least, there were long periods of military conscription. Although by no means common in the early empire, some men attempted to escape service by cutting off their thumbs so they couldn't wield a sword. Draft-dodging, however, was dealt with severely. Emperor Augustus once punished an aristocrat who removed the thumbs of his two sons, by selling him into slavery and auctioning off his property.

In AD 368 – as barbarians migrated in ever-larger numbers into the empire – conscription avoidance became endemic so stiffer penalties were imposed, including public burnings. By the end of the fourth century, Emperor Theodosius passed a law that forced the thumb-less to serve and made any parent or landowner presenting a mutilated individual find a second to make good the loss. Eventually, a lack of new recruits, combined with losses in battle, meant Rome became reliant on barbarian migrants to fill staff shortages.

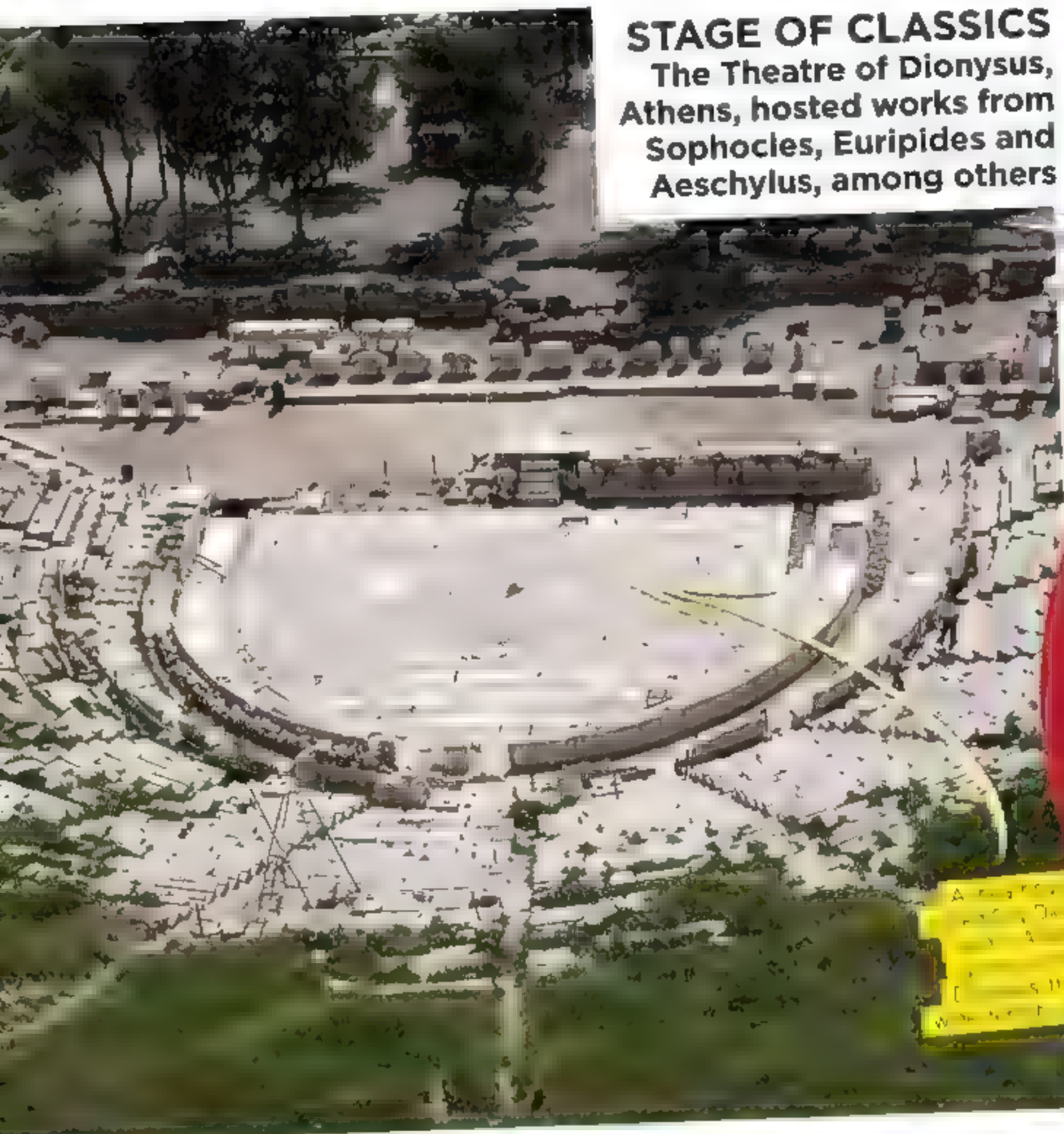


**GIVE THE THUMBS DOWN**  
So they couldn't carry their swords, Roman men would cut off their thumbs



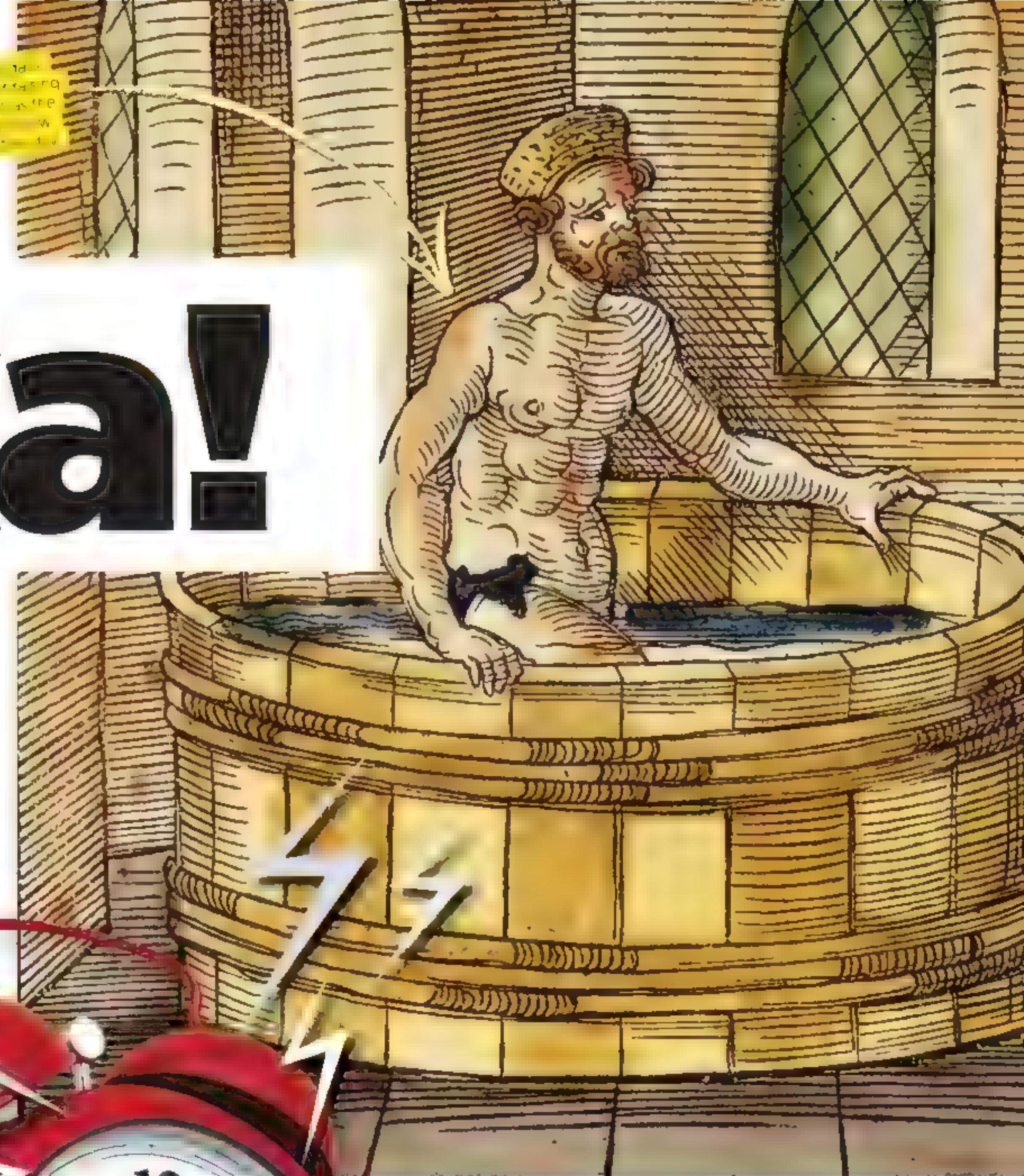
# Eureka!

What did the Ancient Greeks ever do for us? Beyond the white togas and wrath-filled gods, here are the ten inventions that still impact our world today...



**STAGE OF CLASSICS**  
The Theatre of Dionysus, Athens, hosted works from Sophocles, Euripides and Aeschylus, among others

Alexander the Great  
was a Macedonian  
king who  
conquered the  
known world  
from 336 to 323 BC.



## ALARM CLOCK

We have Plato to thank for the curse of the morning wake-up call. The Greek philosopher allegedly needed help waking up for dawn lectures, so set up a system where water would drain slowly through a funnel to a container beneath. As the second vessel filled, trapped air was forced out of a side vent, making a whistling noise. And so the alarm clock went off for the first time. Thanks, Plato!

## THEATRE

Before the invention of the modern theatre, Greek plays were performed in a circular or semi-circular building called a theatron. The stage was a raised platform called a skene, and the audience sat in a semi-circular area called the theatron. The stage was built on a hillside, and the audience sat on the slope. The stage was built on a hillside, and the audience sat on the slope. The stage was built on a hillside, and the audience sat on the slope.

## WORLD MAPS

Forget Google Maps – it was the sixth-century-BC philosopher Anaximander who many credit with creating the first world map. Yes, his map depicted a flat earth floating unsupported in space, with the sun and moon as hollow rings of fire, but by drawing the world he made significant steps as a geographer.

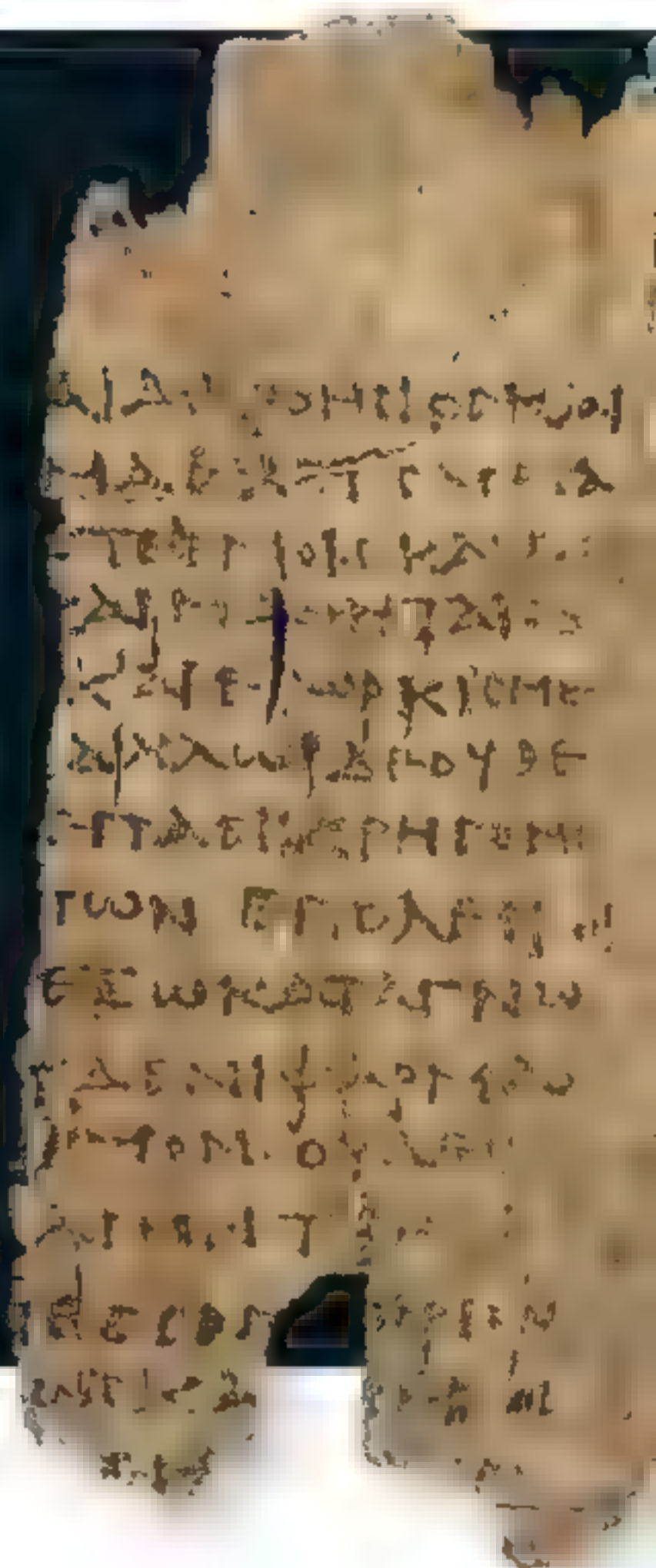


**MAKE ME A MAP**  
Greek historian Herodotus refines Anaximander's efforts in c450 BC

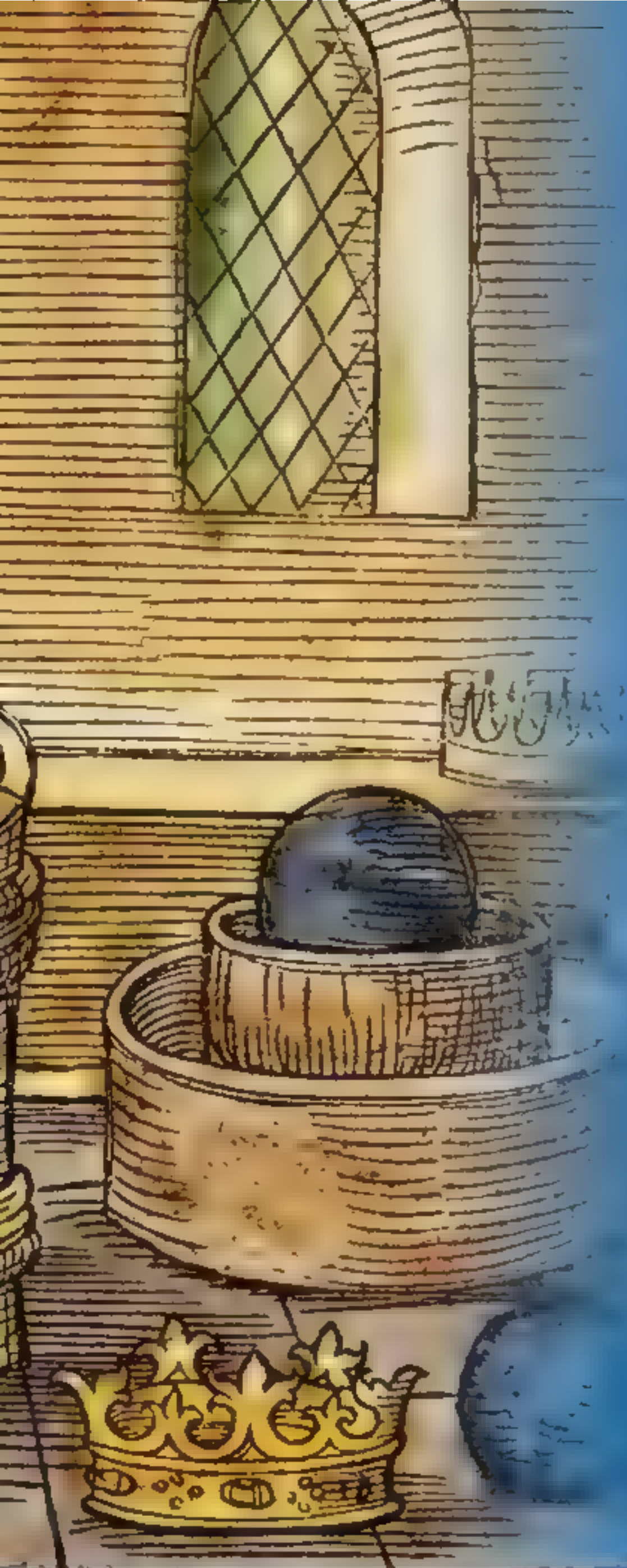
## HIPPOCRATIC OATH

On the unfortunate occasions we need medical treatment, the professionals tending our aches, pains and illnesses are still following ethics guidelines dating back to the fourth century BC. Named after Greek physician Hippocrates – the so-called 'Father of Medicine' – new doctors take the Hippocratic Oath, swearing to respect and treat patients to the best of their ability.

**BROKEN OATH**  
A third-century-BC fragment of the Hippocratic Oath







## ARCHIMEDES' PRINCIPLE

The original 'Eureka!' moment came in the third century BC, when mathematician, philosopher and inventor Archimedes got into his bath. As he sat in the bath, he noticed the water level rising. He used bathtime to work out how the volume of the object he was in the bath compared to the volume of the water it displaced. Thus, the great mathematician of antiquity also created a simple law of physics.

## OLYMPICS

Beginning in the eighth century BC, the ancient Olympics were held (unsurprisingly) at Olympia every four years. Originally lasting just one day, the festival extended to five days to include chariot racing, running and wrestling. It wasn't all about sport, though, as some 100 oxen were sacrificed to the god Zeus, with all but the thighs devoured by a hungry crowd.

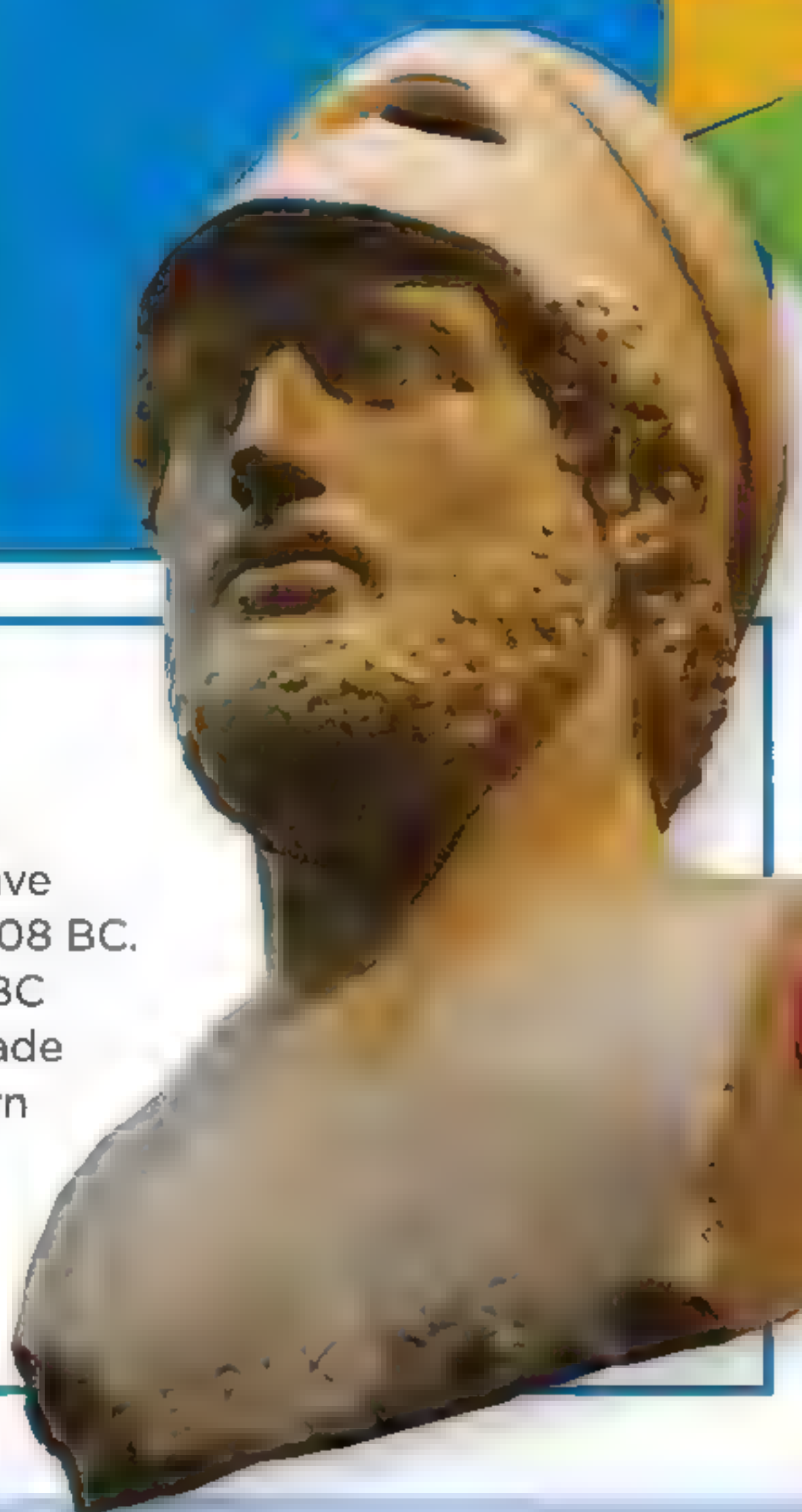


**URN-ING A MEDAL**  
Olympics runners sprint across a fifth-century-BC vase

...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...

## DEMOCRACY

The tenets of democracy and constitution are thought to have been developed in Athens, c508 BC. It would be the fifth-century-BC leader Pericles (right) who made the Assembly – all the freeborn male citizens – the central power of the state. Women, foreigners and slaves, though, didn't get a look in.



## UMBRELLA



## COURT JURIES

Athens was the epicentre of many Ancient Greek discoveries. Peer juries first appeared c590 BC in courts to decide important cases, but forget the 6-12 men and women of today's courts. Athenian juries were chaps-only and could number anything from 500 to 1,501 – because who could afford to bribe so many people?

### JURY DUTY

RIGHT: A jury sits in trial at the Areios Pagos court in Athens. BELOW: Bronze discs used for judgement – the solid handle meant innocent, hollow for guilty.



## FLOOR HEATING

The Greeks liked to stay warm as much as anyone so came up with a cunning idea. Flues planted on the floor circulated warm air coming from a fire. Worshippers to the Temple of Ephesus (pictured), which boasted such a system, could stay toasty during even the longest of ceremonies.



# Did **Julius Caesar** really wear a laurel wreath?



According to the Roman historian (and dreadful gossip) Suetonius, Julius Caesar was quite the dandy. He shaved, trimmed and plucked any unwanted body hair with tweezers and he was mortified to be as bald as the proverbial coot. Now the comb-over is rarely seen as a good look, but

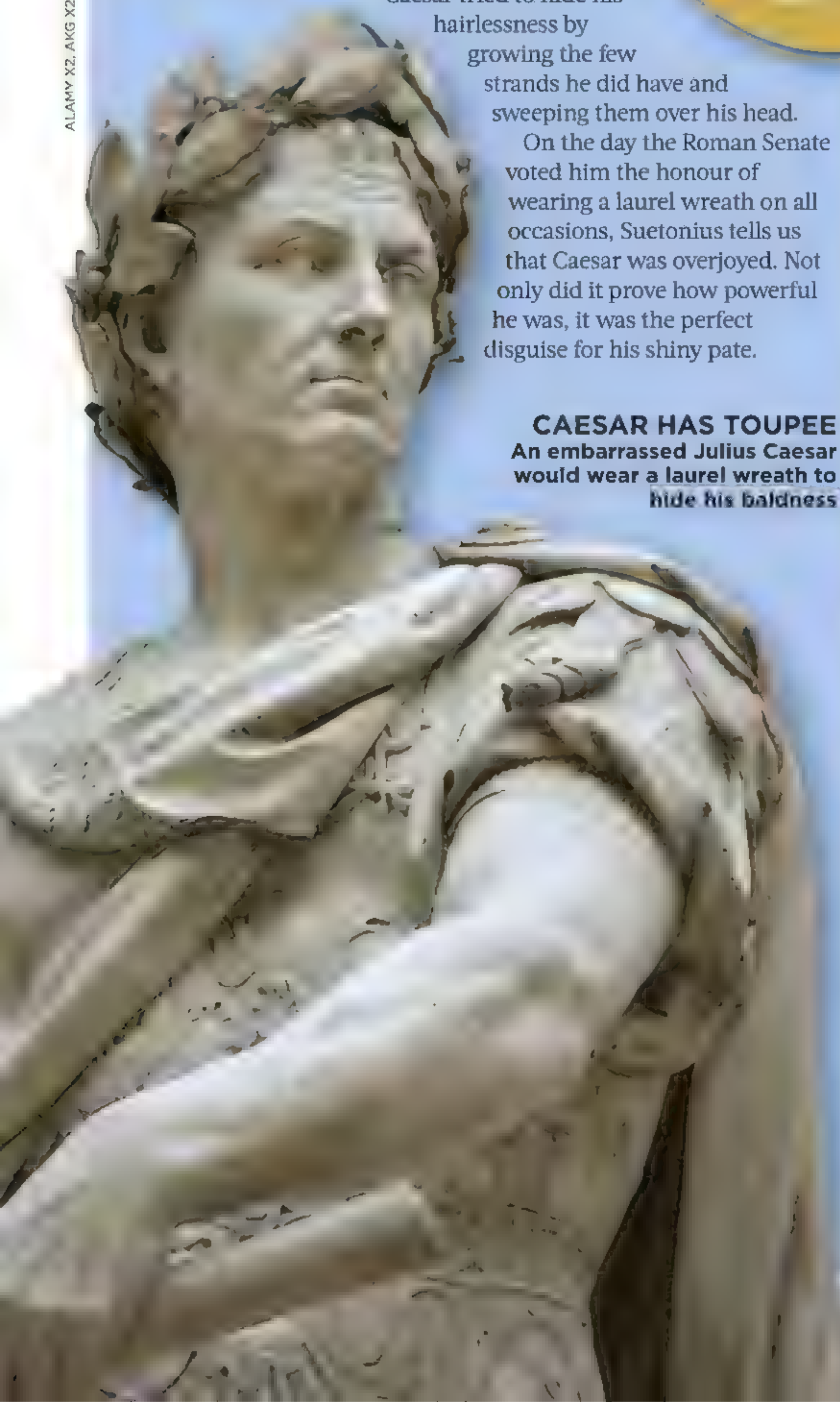
Caesar tried to hide his hairlessness by

growing the few strands he did have and sweeping them over his head.

On the day the Roman Senate voted him the honour of wearing a laurel wreath on all occasions, Suetonius tells us that Caesar was overjoyed. Not only did it prove how powerful he was, it was the perfect disguise for his shiny pate.

## CAESAR HAS TOUPEE

An embarrassed Julius Caesar would wear a laurel wreath to hide his baldness



## TOP OF THE PYRAMID

The Great Pyramid of Giza was the world's tallest human-made structure for nearly four millennia



## WHAT A GIZA!

An ivory statue of the 4,500-year-old Khufu

# WHO WAS EGYPT'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PHARAOH?




Today, the most celebrated pharaohs, Cleopatra and Tutankhamun, can hardly be judged to be the most successful. The first lost her kingdom to the Roman empire while the latter remained largely obscure until the discovery of his treasure-filled tomb.


From an ancient perspective, the most successful monarchs were Thutmose III (1479-1425/26 BC) and Amenhotep III (c1391-c1354 BC), as they ruled Egypt at the height of its military, economic and artistic powers. Another candidate is Ramesses II (1279-1213 BC) - known either as 'the Great' or 'Ozymandias' in popular culture - who lived into his early 90s and defeated the Hittites at Kadesh in 1274 BC, history's earliest battle with details of the action. Arguably, however, it was the second pharaoh of the Fourth Dynasty, Khufu (2589-2566 BC), who left the most lasting legacy. He was the sponsor of the Great Pyramid at Giza, the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World to survive.



## WHY WERE ROMAN OFFICERS KNOWN AS CENTURIONS?

 The highest rank of non-commissioned officer in the Roman military was the centurion. The most junior commanded a unit of 80 to 100 men, a 'century', while the more senior among them became known as a *primus pilus* ('first spear'). They were professional soldiers and, given that the 'officer class' in the Roman army really comprised the sons of aristocrats ascending the greasy pole of political (as opposed to military) power, centurions represented the most experienced, battle-hardened troops in any given legion. They understood how their units worked and enforced discipline. But they were also expected to lead by example, so often suffered disproportionate battlefield losses as a consequence.

## Were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon real?

 **Nebuchadnezzar II**, King of Babylon, created his legendary Hanging Gardens for his Iranian-born Queen Amytis, it is said, in the sixth century BC. Yet no certain evidence of any gardens, hanging or otherwise, have been recovered from the Ancient Mesopotamian city. It is possible the story conflated

tales of earlier gardens, such as those of the seventh-century BC palace of Nineveh on the banks of the Euphrates, although this hasn't been confirmed. To date, the Hanging Gardens remain the only one of the original seven Wonders of the Ancient World whose location and very existence remain unknown.


**170**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
TIME AT MY FANT



**TAKE ME TO THE RIVER**  
The fertile Nile flood plain meant more crops and larger communities

## Why was Ancient Egypt so advanced, so early?

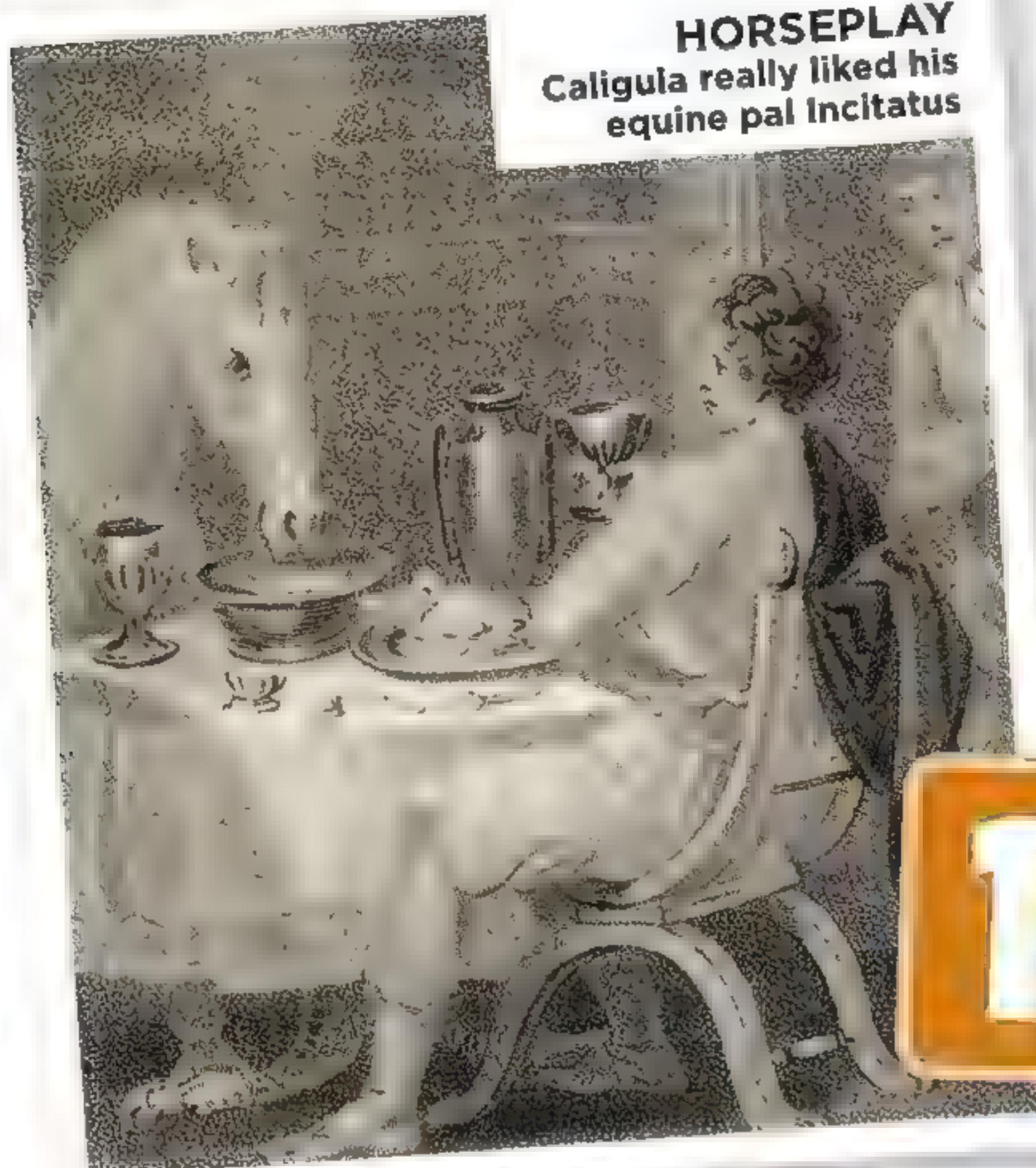
 In short: the river Nile. Just as with the early civilisations of the Indus, the Tigris and the Euphrates, it was the richly organic silt deposited during the annual flooding of a major water course that first attracted people to the Nile. Here, they encountered an incredibly fertile strip of land in which the crops necessary to sustain ever larger farming communities could be grown and increasing numbers of animals fed and watered. The advanced social organisation and monumental building soon followed.



# Did Caligula really make his horse a senator?

**Target** Incitatus, favourite horse of Caligula, allegedly lived in a grand marble house. We are told the Roman emperor loved him so much that he wanted to make him a consul (lawmaker). Later writers were keen to demonise Caligula, describing him as pure evil, so it is difficult to know whether he really meant it. Caligula was not the most balanced of emperors, but the account may stem from the line 'my horse could do a better job than you' or from the view that he loved his horse more than he did the Roman mob.

**HORSEPLAY**  
Caligula really liked his equine pal Incitatus



120

The approximate number of ships sent to the East Indies by the Roman Empire to import spices every year.



**THE LOST CITY**  
Was Atlantis swallowed up by the sea after a volcano erupted 2,500 years ago, or is it just fantasy?

## WAS ATLANTIS REAL?

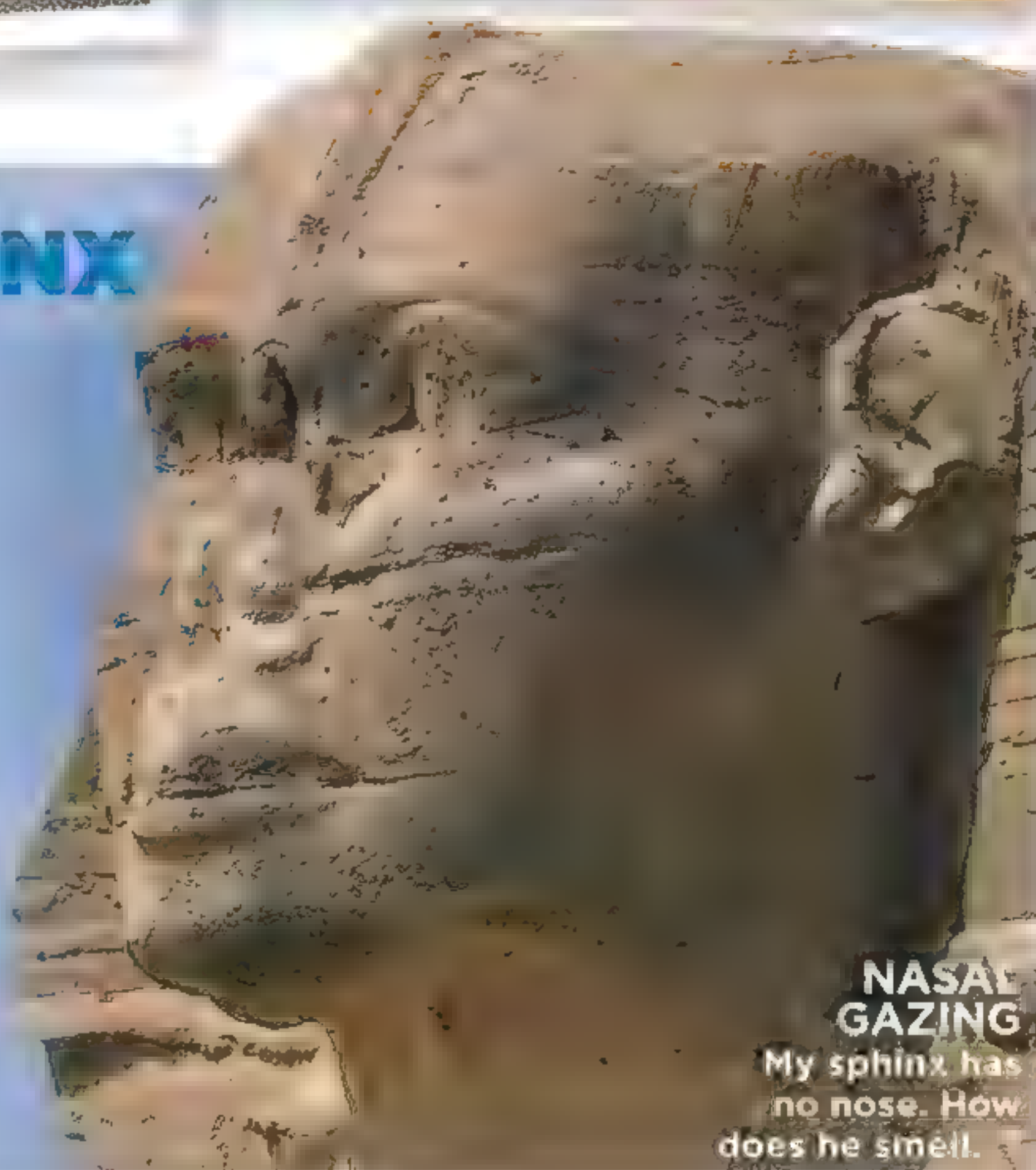
**Target** The first mention of Atlantis, the mythical island lost beneath the sea, comes from two dialogues by the Greek philosopher Plato. Written c330 BC, Atlantis is featured as a naval antagonist to the more idealised 'Ancient Athens', and it is eventually abandoned by the gods and submerged in the Atlantic Ocean.

Opinion among later ancient writers was divided on whether the island ever

existed, with some believing it part of Egyptian tradition. The story captured the imagination of Renaissance writers, who bestowed upon the island a more Utopian quality, and some 19th-century scholars insisted that it belonged to Mayan and Aztec history. Many possible sites have been put forward, but all have been dismissed as fanciful. For many, it is generally accepted that Plato's story was his own invention.

## HOW DID THE SPHINX LOSE ITS NOSE?

**Target** The statue of the Sphinx, a reclining lion with a human head thought to represent Pharaoh Khafre, sits on the Giza Plateau in Egypt. Sadly the 4,500-year-old Sphinx is badly weathered and missing its nose. One popular story suggests the face was damaged by cannon-fire during Napoleon's Egyptian campaign of 1798-1801, but the nose disappeared long before the Emperor of France was born. In fact, close examination shows significant areas of chisel damage across the face, suggesting a deliberate attack, possibly a piece of religious iconoclasm in the 15th century or earlier.




**NASAL GAZING**  
My sphinx has no nose. How does he smell.

## HOW DID EARLY CHRISTIAN ARMIES GET AROUND THE 6TH COMMANDMENT?

**Target** 'Thou shalt not kill', the commandment brought down by Moses from Mount Sinai, is explicitly clear. Unfortunately, from the perspective of fourth-century Christianised armies, it meant soldiers were forbidden to kill their enemy. In order to circumvent this divine instruction, Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea, and Augustine, bishop of Hippo Regis, issued a decree: War was acceptable as long as it occurred for a just purpose and had been decreed by 'a proper authority', such as the state. Sadly, things have never been the same since.



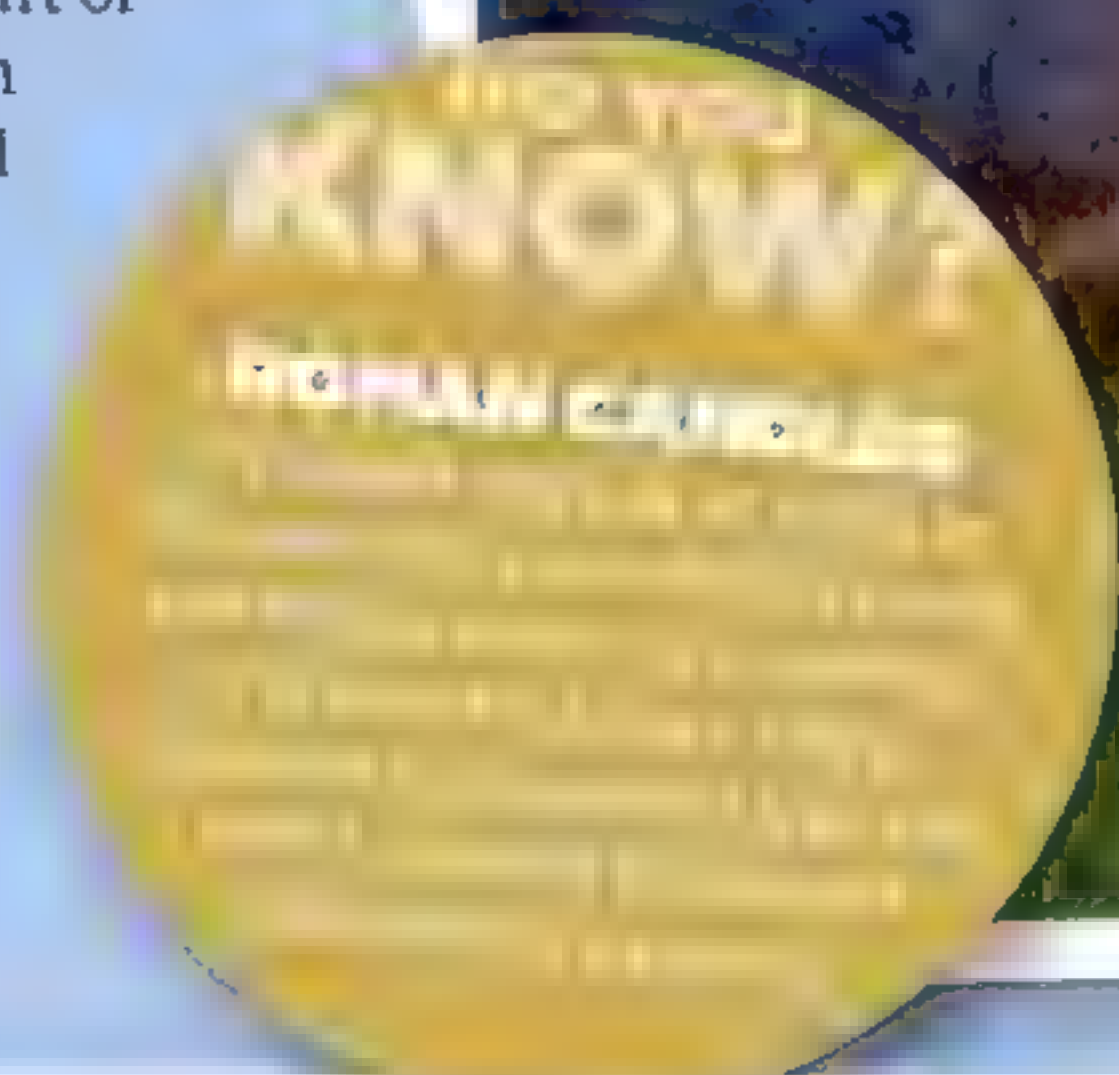
# Was **Stonehenge** first built in Wales?

 Stonehenge, which began to be built around 3000 BC, continues to mystify historians, archaeologists and geologists. The prehistoric stone circle is composed predominantly of locally sourced sarsen (sandstone), but at its centre is a setting of smaller 'bluestone' monoliths. For these, spotted dolerite was used – an igneous rock that outcrops in west Wales, some 140 miles from Salisbury Plain.

How these bluestones came to Stonehenge is subject to heated debate. The answer may come from recent discoveries of potential prehistoric quarries, where dolerite may have been extracted, in the Preseli Hills of Pembrokeshire. Yet some still contend the bluestones were deposited on Salisbury Plain by glaciers. Alternatively, the monoliths may originally have been part of a stone circle constructed in Wales, which was lifted and moved wholesale in the third millennium BC. But why the herculean effort to move such massive stones? It could be that the unusual spotted dolerite was prized by those living on the more colour-deficient chalk landscapes of Wiltshire.




**MORE THAN A STONE'S THROW**  
Bluestones may have been moved over 100 miles to build Stonehenge, despite weighing up to four tons each



**WHIP INTO SHAPE**  
Referees of the wrestling whipped competitors to make them stop an illegal move

## HOW DID **ANCIENT ATHLETES** PREPARE FOR THE OLYMPICS?

 Unlike today, there was no prize for coming second in the Ancient Greek Olympics. Winning was everything, so athletes went to great efforts to achieve success, starting with arriving a month before the games so they could train and check out the opposition. Housed away from society, much like a modern Olympic Village, Greek sportsmen subjected themselves to a punishing exercise regime in order to be at the peak of both physical fitness and beauty – they wanted to look good if they were going to compete naked. Diets were strictly controlled and competitors were expected to abstain from any pleasures, such as sex, which may physically weaken them.



# TOP 10

## WHO ARE THE MOST FAMOUS BEARS IN HISTORY?



### GRIZZLY'S GRIZZLY

It's not often that you come across a man named Grizzly with a pet bear named Ben. While in pursuit of a new life in the American West, John Grizzly Adams found companionship not in the other gold rush forty-niners, but in a bear cub he had captured while hunting. The bear, which he decided to call Ben Franklin, became so loyal to his master that he risked his life saving Grizzly from another, fiercer grizzly.



### BYRON'S PET BEAR

When Lord Byron was told that he was not allowed to bring his beloved pet dog to university, the quick-witted poet devised a plan to ensure that he would never be without a furry friend. As the rules only specified that cats and dogs were forbidden, he instead managed to acquire a tame bear. Writing of it, he said: "I have got a new friend, the finest in the world. When I brought him here, they asked me what I meant to do with him, and my reply was, 'he should sit for a fellowship'."



### WOJTEK

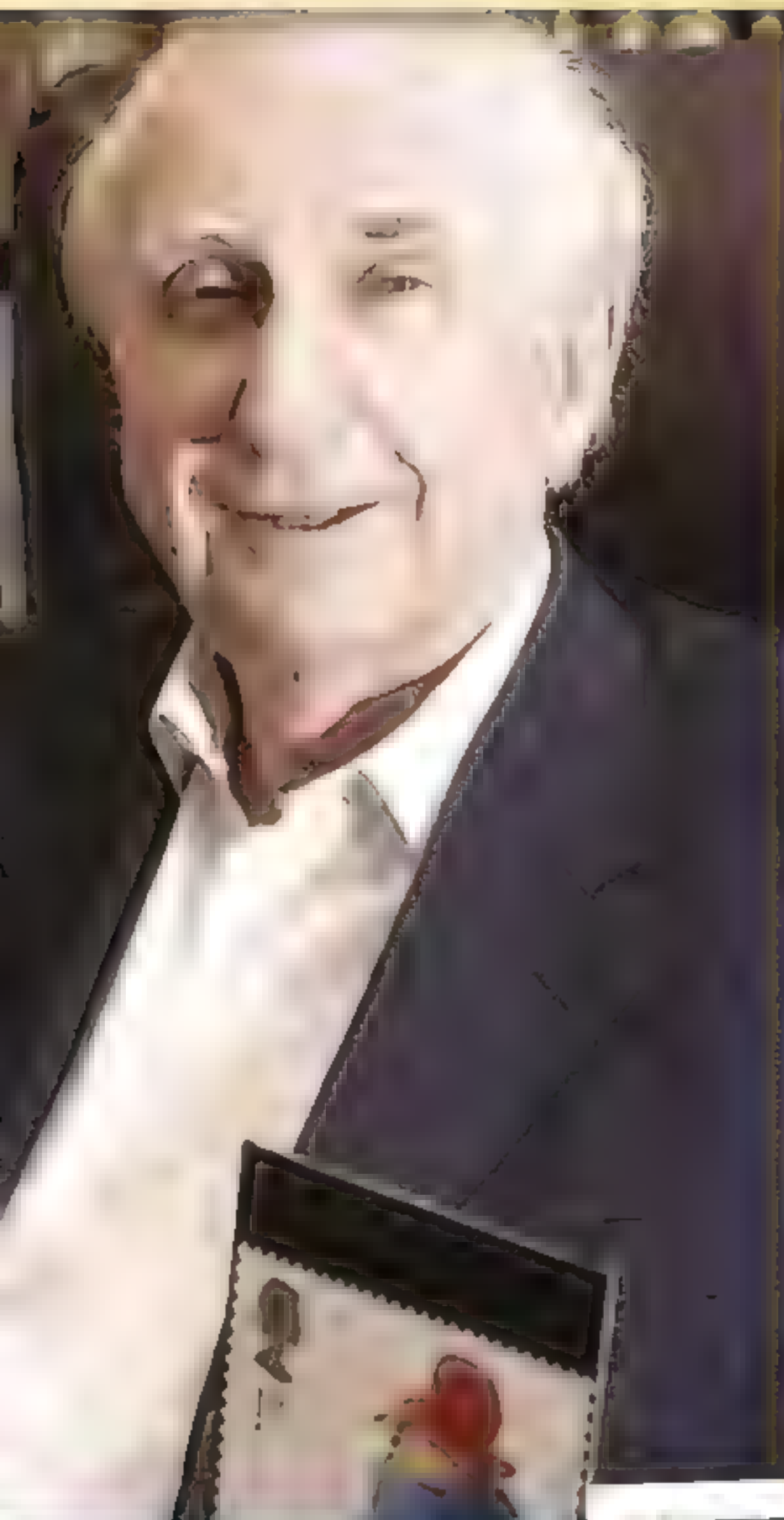
With a penchant for drinking and smoking, Wojtek had much in common with many privates serving in World War II – but this private was a bear. When hunters killed his mother, Wojtek was adopted by members of the Polish II Corps. After being raised on condensed milk, the bear developed a taste for wine and beer, and would even take the odd puff on a cigarette (before promptly swallowing it). As the army prepared to push forward into Italy, Wojtek was officially drafted into the ranks to cheat the 'no pets on camp' rule, and was commended for his bravery after helping to carry ammunition into battle.

### THE FIRST TEDDY

Considering he hated his nickname, it's ironic that Theodore Roosevelt has been immortalised in the eponymous teddy bear. The link came about following a hunting trip in 1902, during which the president had refused to shoot dead a captured bear. A cartoon relating the tale was published in *The Washington Post*, inspiring Morris Michtom to create a stuffed toy in his honour. Roosevelt gave him permission to use his name, and the rest, as they say, is history.

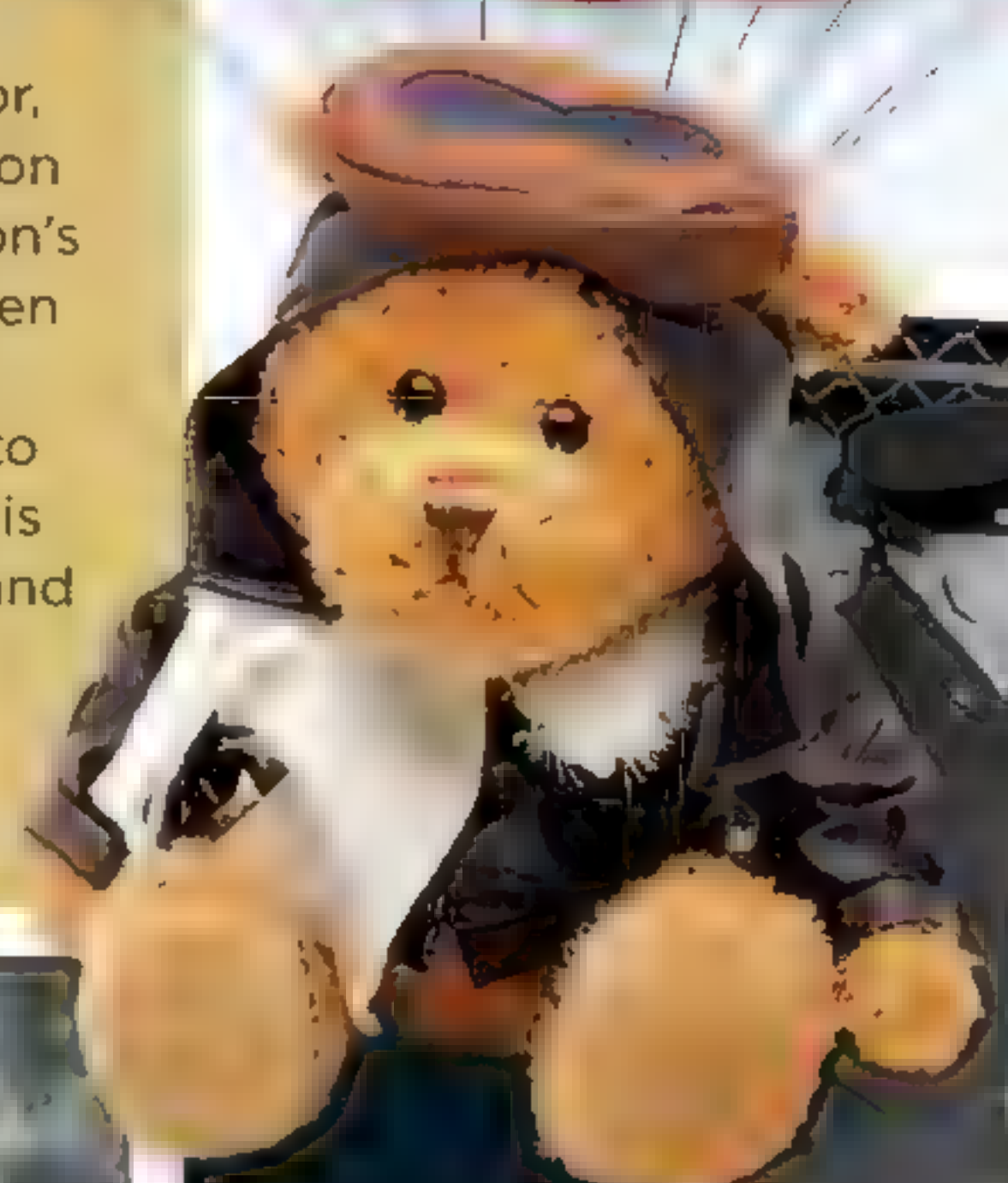






## PADDINGTON

The award for the most polite individual on the list goes to a certain duffle-coat-wearing, marmalade-sandwich-eating, Peruvian bear. Yes, he has the advantage of speech and, well, being fictional, but his formal manner has earned him worldwide respect. His creator, Michael Bond, found inspiration in a lone teddy bear at London's Paddington Station in 1956. Ten days later, his well-mannered character had been brought to life. But don't be deceived, this bear drives a mean bargain, and one of his 'hard stares' may leave you questioning every decision you ever made.



## ROCKY

When some members of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team decided they needed a mascot, they went to the zoo and asked for a bear. Her name was Rocky, and during her 'tour of duty' carried out five parachute jumps, qualifying her for official paratrooper status. Despite this, she apparently disliked the jumps, as she once gnawed the boot of a man who 'helped' her out of the plane.



## BART

Like so many celebrities, Bart was born into stardom. His mother had been an actress, so it was only natural he should follow in her footsteps and find fame on screen. He made his debut in the TV series *The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams* while still a cub, and later appeared alongside names like Robert Redford, Daryl Hannah and Brad Pitt. His career reached its zenith in 1988, when one of the Academy Awards voting members nominated him for his portrayal of a bear in *The Bear*. Though the prize was snatched by a human, Bart's contribution to cinema will be forever cherished.



## SMOKEY BEAR

Created in 1944 as part of a campaign to educate the US public about the dangers of forest fires, Smokey was initially just a cartoon. That was until 1950, when an American black bear cub was rescued from a wildfire in the Capitan Mountains. With his paws and hind legs singed, the bear was originally called 'Hotfoot Teddy', but was later renamed Smokey after the mascot.

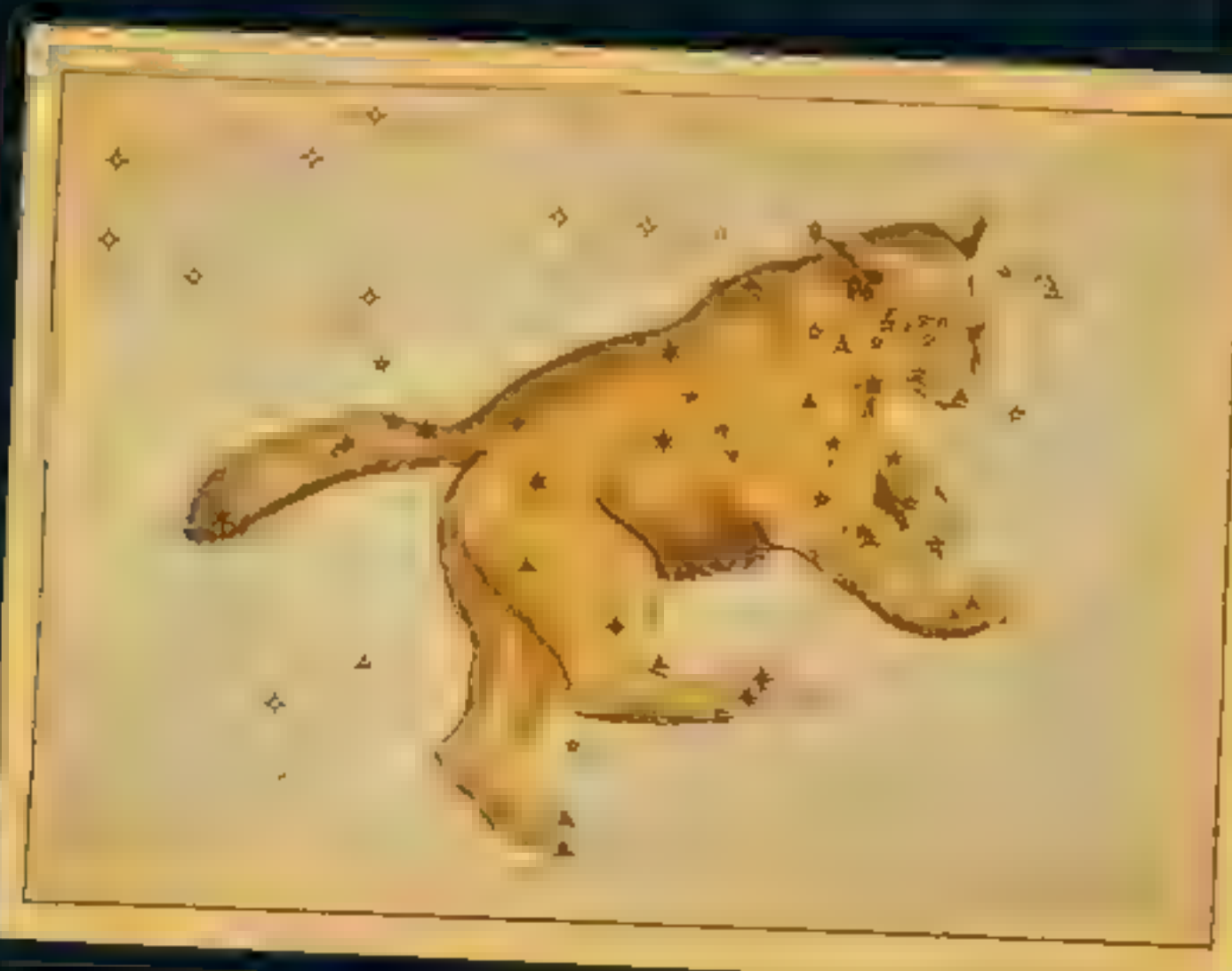
## WINNIE THE POOH

Winnipeg the bear, better known as Winnie, inspired one of literature's most loved characters. After being purchased by a Canadian lieutenant at the start of World War I, Winnipeg accompanied him to England, where she was donated to London Zoo. She caught the attention of a young boy named Christopher Robin Milne, who changed the name of his teddy to Winnie-the-Pooh. He in turn became the subject of his father's famous children's books.



## URSA MAJOR

At over 13,000 years old, and with an excellent vantage point, this bear has seen a lot. Ursa Major, or 'the great she-bear' as her name means in Latin, is the third largest constellation in the sky, and home to dozens of galaxies. For millennia she has been used to locate the North Star, helping set lost travellers back on the right path and lighting their way. It is thought that her origins lie in the Paleolithic era, when bears were worshipped.





# FOOD & DRINK

## DID YOU KNOW?

### PAY THROUGH THE SNOOT

It used to be law in England to pay a 'tithe' (one-tenth of income, crop yield or livestock) to the church. Many poorer people would offer their parson a 'tithe-pig' – literally a pig – as an alternative to cash.

### BURST BUBBLE

The Fleer company had sole control of the bubble-gum market until Bazooka was launched after World War II.



## WHY IS BUBBLE GUM PINK?



The practice of chewing gum goes back millennia – to at least the Ancient Greeks, who chewed resin from the mastic tree.

The reason bubble gum is pink, however, is a lot more recent. During the 1920s, Walter E Diemer, an accountant at the Fleer Chewing Gum

company in Philadelphia, spent his spare time inventing new recipes. All of them had to be pink as that was the only food colouring the company had. He claimed his discovery of a formula both pliable enough to blow bubbles and smooth enough not to stick to your teeth was an accident.

His first pink gum was an invention to a local sweetshop in 1928, where it sold out in a single day. Delighted, Diemer personally taught salespeople the correct way to blow 'Dubble Bubble' so they could teach clients – and pass on the information to the children of the United States.







**VAST VEGGIES**  
On his Oxfordshire allotment in 1954, Reginald Clarke shows off his pride and joy – a giant cabbage

## When did people start **keeping allotments?**

**Target** In the aftermath of the Norman Conquest of 1066, Anglo Saxon methods of farming eroded in the face of enclosure. Some resented this system, though, and in 1649 a group called the 'Diggers', or 'the True Levellers', organised a mass public trespass on waste land to plant basic food staples. Not until the General Inclosure Act of 1845 was legal provision of land for cultivation made to the labouring poor. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908 obliged local authorities to provide land according to demand, then in 1919 – seeing the hardship of returning World War I soldiers – another law was passed making allotments available to all.

## HOW DID SAUSAGES HELP THE REFORMATION?

**Target** In 1522, Zürich printer Christoph Froschauer held a supper for his employees and several dignitaries. Despite it being Lent, he dared to serve his guests – including the radical pastor Ulrich Zwingli – wurst rather than the usual fish. As eating meat during the time of fasting was prohibited, this sausage supper caused uproar and Froschauer was arrested. Zwingli, who had long been preaching on freedom of choice, gave an impassioned sermon in defence of the 'Affair of the Sausages', thus sparking popular enthusiasm for the Reformation in Switzerland.

## WHO INVENTED **LEMONADE?**

**Target** There is a lot of debate as to when lemons were first used in food and drink. The tree was probably indigenous to India or China, but it's not yet been proven when the fruit made its way westwards into the Mediterranean. There are Roman mosaics that may show lemons, but these could be citron.

The earliest definitive cultivation of the lemon tree was in medieval Arabia, while the earliest surviving description of a sweetened lemon drink can be found in Egypt during the time of the Crusades. Starting in Tudor England, lemon juice would be used in medicinal cordials called 'Water Imperial', along with cream of tartar, which retained a healing reputation for centuries.

Samuel Pepys was one of many Londoners who, by the 1660s, enjoyed the refreshing new beverage of sweet lemon juice, mixed with honey and water, imported from France.

The addition of bubbles had to wait, however, until 1767, when English chemist Joseph Priestley invented carbonated water, a technique exploited by Johann Jacob Schweppe, whose commercial drinks company

began selling fizzy soda in England in the 1790s. By 1833, ginger beer and carbonated lemonade were widely available at Britain's refreshment stalls.





## WHEN DID THE POTATO CATCH ON IN EUROPE?

8,200

The number of sheep  
eaten at the Tudor  
court in an average year.

Discovered in the New World in the 1500s, the potato had an slow introduction to Europe. The architect of its rotten reputation was Swiss botanist Caspar Bauhin, who in 1596 drew a lumpen, gnarly illustration of the potato and theorised eating them caused flatulence, lust and leprosy. Before long, people refused to eat them, even in times of famine, so spuds became horse fodder.

It wasn't until the 1770s that the potato was rehabilitated by a French scientist, Antoine-Augustin Parmentier, who organised stunts to promote them as part of a healthy diet. He had, after all, survived being fed potatoes while a Prussian prisoner of war. Parmentier is now celebrated with recipes named after him, in honour of transforming the spud from horse feed to staple food.



## HOW OLD IS VEGETARIANISM?

In times of shortage, many of our ancestors were forced into vegetarianism, but there is evidence of people choosing to abstain from meat. In Ancient Greece, thinkers like the famed mathematician Pythagoras debated whether animals had souls and whether a vegetarian diet was actually healthier. The fact that animals have been regarded as sacred to many civilisations has similarly stopped them being eaten. Some ancient cults would sacrifice animals and inhale the roasting aromas but refuse to dine on the meat, while a recent scientific analysis of 45 Ancient Egyptian mummies showed that many of them steadily ate meat-free diets.

DID YOU  
KNOW?

**EATING WITH FRIENDS**  
Eating together in Ancient Roman times was an important social custom, and a sign of higher civilisation. People would only snack during the day to save room for the one, grand meal, a *lena*, which they shared in large groups.

## Has whale meat ever **been available** to the consumer **in Britain?**

Not only were whales available to eat during the Middle Ages, but they were classed as 'fish', which made them acceptable for Lent, Fridays and other non-meat days (along with beavers). But ocean stocks quickly collapsed, forcing commercial whaling expeditions to venture further from Europe.

Just after World War II, the Ministry of Food in Britain positively encouraged 'whacon' – "corned whalemeat with its fishy flavour removed" – as an unrationed alternative to meat. It tasted similar to corned beef, but was brown rather than red. Fresh whale meat, however, proved unpopular as people were put off by its rank odour.

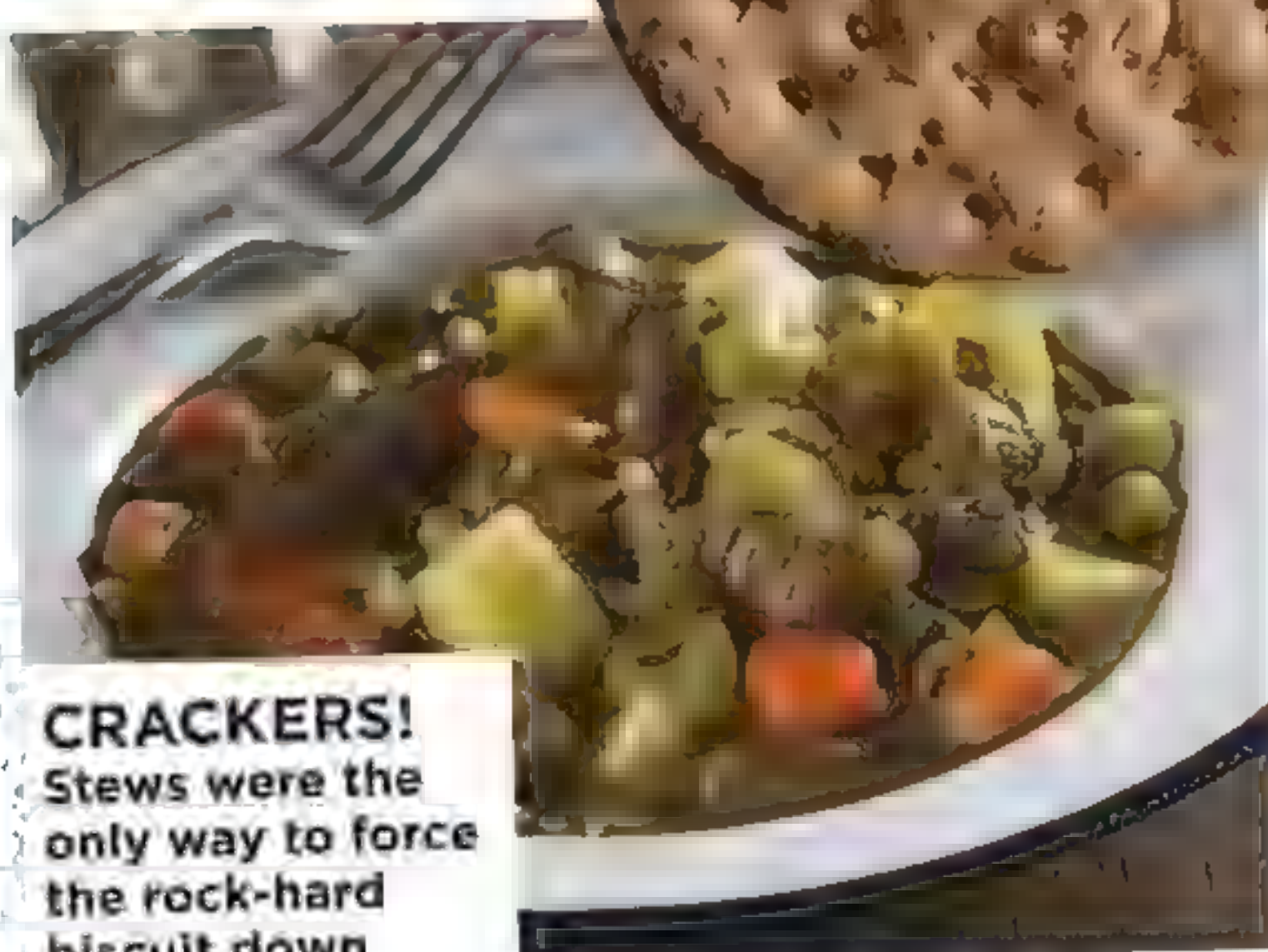
**WAVES OF  
NAUSEA**  
Whalemeat wasn't  
rationed in post-  
WWII Britain





## DID THE SHIP'S BISCUIT STAY EDIBLE DURING LONG SEA VOYAGES?

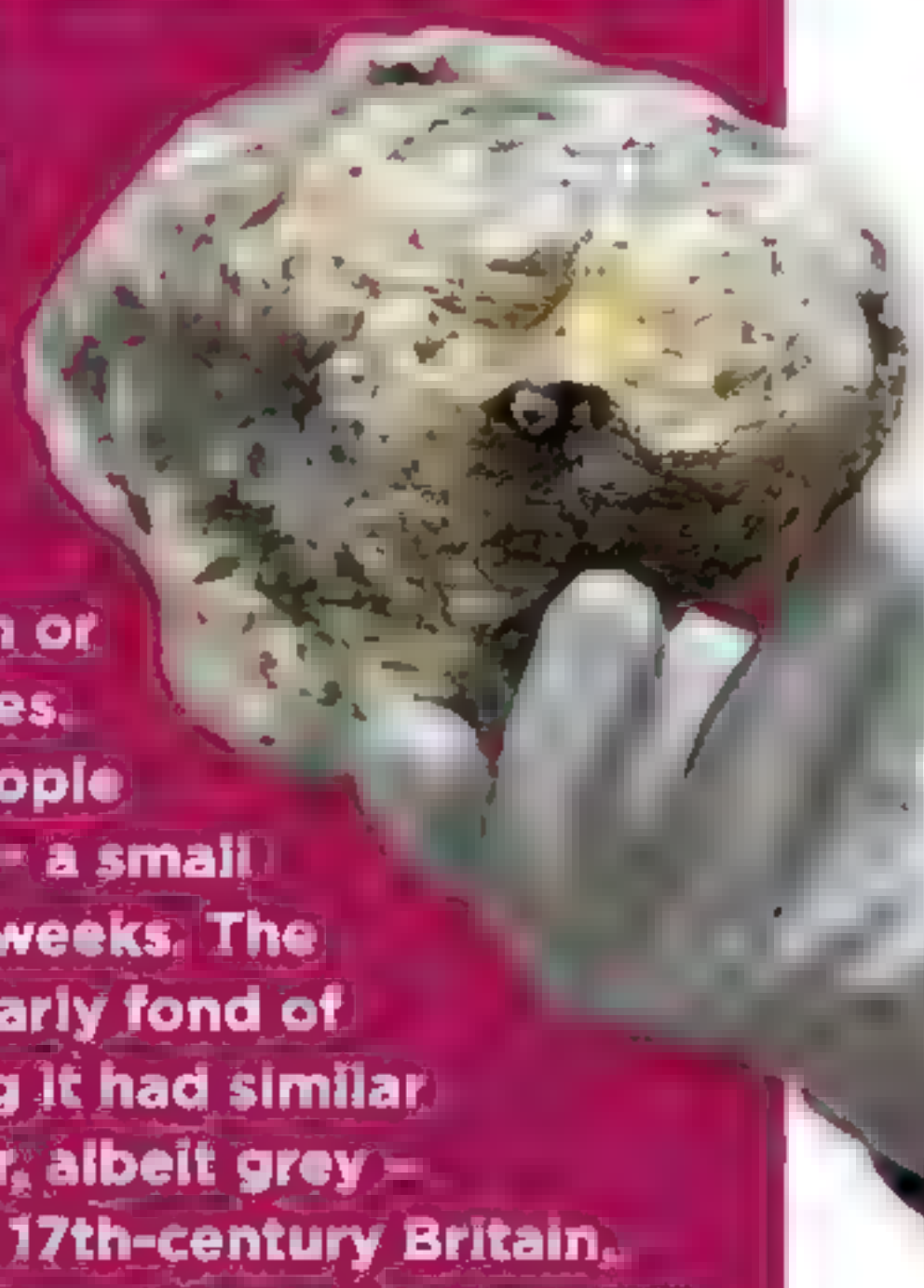
🎯 In the absence of fresh food supplies, sailors had to live off 'hardtack', also known as ship's biscuit. The unleavened bread would be baked four times, making it tough, dry and gritty – and able to be kept for more than a year if properly stored. It was also close to inedible. Sailors would be faced either with jaw-breaking plywood or soggy weevil-infested clag so had to develop ways to help it down. Lobscouse was a one-pot stew that cooks crumbled the biscuit into. While every port had its own recipe, Liverpool's was particularly famous, which is why people from the city are referred to as 'scousers'.



**CRACKERS!**  
Stews were the only way to force the rock-hard biscuit down

## HAVE PEOPLE EVER EATEN AMBERGRIS?

🎯 Why anyone decided to put whale vomit in their mouth is anyone's guess. It was eaten in Ancient China and flavoured tea in Morocco, where it was claimed to taste like dragon's saliva. The waxy secretions from the intestines of a sperm whale are usually found floating on the ocean or washed up on beaches. In Ancient Egypt, people burned it as incense – a small piece would last for weeks. The French were particularly fond of the substance, noting it had similar appearance to amber, albeit grey – hence *amber-gris*. In 17th-century Britain, ambergris was used to perfume food, mainly puddings, desserts and confectionery, but was losing favour by Georgian times.



## Why do people carve pumpkins at Halloween?

🎯 The centuries-old tradition of carving pumpkins (or initially turnips) starts with 'will-o'-the-wisps' – the mysterious balls of glowing light from folklore, seen over marshland and bogs.

An Irish version of the wisp legend describes how a sinful drunkard, Stingy Jack, tricked the Devil and so wasn't allowed into Heaven or Hell when he died. Instead, he had to wander the land forevermore with an ember burning in a turnip to light his way. In Ireland and Scotland, people began making their own 'Jack o'Lanterns', or 'punkies', out of carved turnips or mangelwurzelz liberated from farmers' fields, attached to pieces of string and with candles inside. When the custom reached the United States, the in-season (and therefore stealable) crop was the pumpkin – a better option as it was larger and easier to carve.



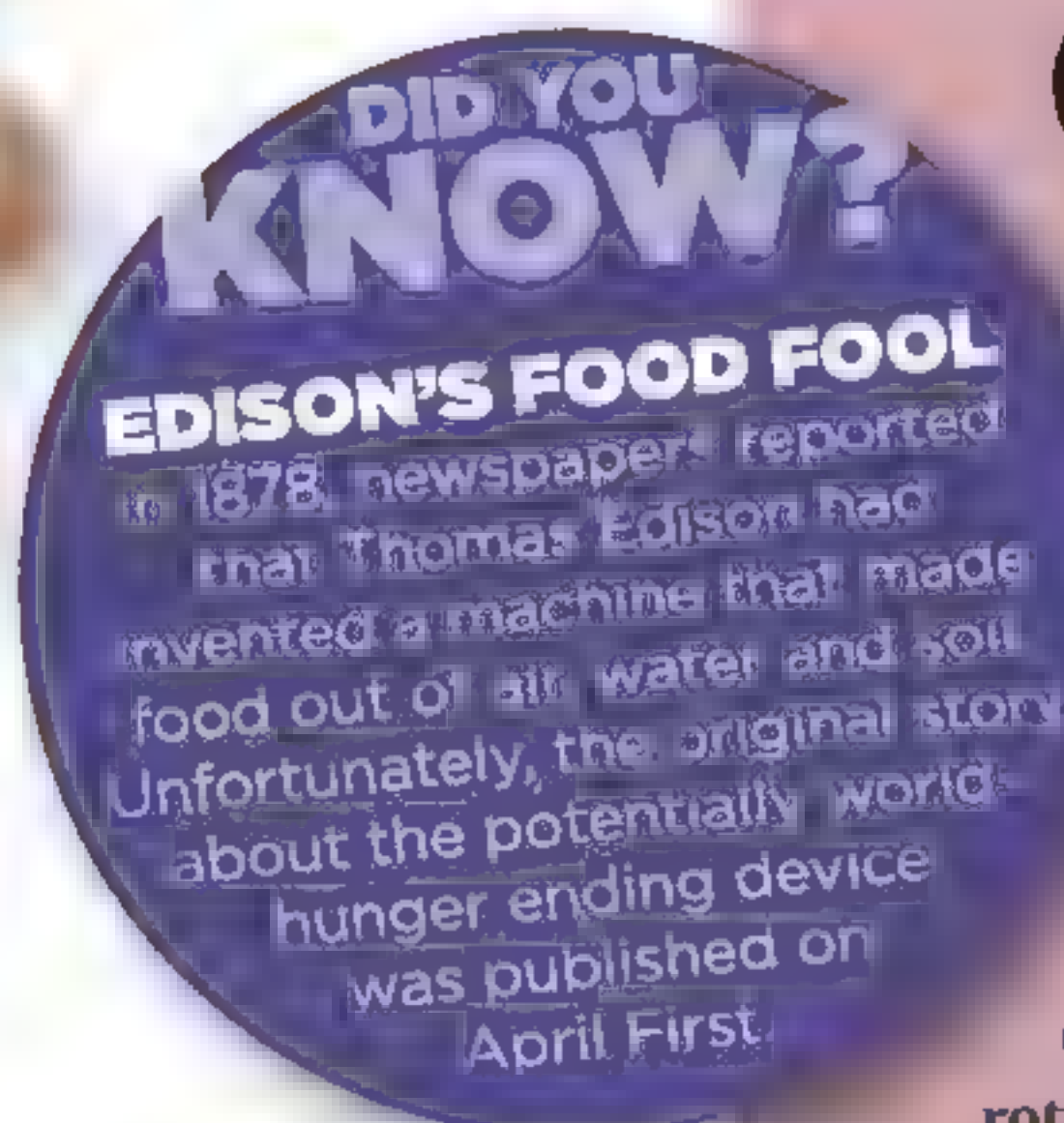
**JACK OF ALL TRADES**  
Scary or grotesque faces were carved into Jack o'Lanterns to ward off evil spirits

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### SACRIFICE IN THE SNOW

Despite facing starvation during his polar expedition, 1907-09, Ernest Shackleton gave his daily biscuit to one of his companions. "All the money that was ever minted would not have bought that biscuit," stated the grateful recipient, Frank Wild.





## How was **ice cream** made before refrigerators?

**Target** In Renaissance-era Europe, ice houses – buildings, either underground or in naturally cold environments – were built to keep ice all year round, insulated by straw or sawdust. Early iced desserts were made in silver vessels that opened in the middle, so they could be removed after expansion from the cold, but they were a rare luxury enjoyed only by the very wealthy.

In 1843, Nancy Johnson from Philadelphia patented a hand-cranked ice cream machine. A double-walled, wooden bucket was packed with ice and salt, before the mixture was poured in and paddled until it became stiff. As the Victorians perfected the technique, ice cream became cheaper and easier to produce, creating a dinner party novelty. Moulds were produced in all shapes, including eggs, bunnies and a full deck of playing cards.

ALAMY X1, GETTY X3, MARY EVANS X1

## HOW DID PEOPLE IN WORLD WAR II REACT TO **EATING DRIED EGGS?**

**Target** An archetypal World War II image, dried egg gained a reputation for all that was bad about rationing. Yet for a country desperate for protein, they had to stay. This was especially the case after some disastrous attempts to import eggs from America.

One consignment was so rotten that workers had to be paid extra to unload them and the evidence had to be tipped down a disused mine shaft.

Dried eggs first appeared in ration books in June 1942. The Ministry of Food issued posters and recipe leaflets to persuade a sceptical public, many of whom still remembered 'Eggall', a horrid prototype during World War I.

A new form of powdered egg was better received, especially when disguised as an omelette, scrambled or used in cakes (if flour, sugar and butter were available). People became so used to powdered egg that when the shelled variety returned, many housewives had to re-learn how to boil one.

**GOOD EGG**  
A 1943 advert from the Ministry of Food, convincing consumers of the benefits of dried eggs



**"DRIED EGGS are my eggs – my whole eggs and nothing but my eggs"**



Dried eggs are the complete hen's eggs, both the white and the yolk, dried to a powder. Nothing is added. Nothing but moisture and the shell taken away, leaving the eggs themselves as wholesome, as digestible and as full of nourishment and health-protecting value as if you had just taken the eggs new laid from the nest. So put the eggs back into your breakfast menus. And what about a big, creamy omelette for supper? You can have it savoury; or sweet, now that you get extra jam.



**DRIED EGGS build you up!**

In war-time, the most difficult foods for us to get are the body-builders. Dried eggs build muscle and repair tissue in just the same way as do chops and steaks; and are better for health-protection. So we are particularly lucky to be able to get dried eggs to make up for any shortage of other body-builders such as meat, fish, cheese, milk.

**Your allowance of DRIED EGG is equal to 3 eggs a week**



You can now get one 12-egg packet (price 1/3) per 4-week rationing period – three fine fresh eggs a week, at the astonishingly low price of 1/3d. each. Children (holders of green ration books) get two packets each rationing period. You buy your dried eggs at the shop where you are registered for shell eggs; poultry keepers can buy anywhere. Don't hoard your dried eggs: use them up – there are plenty more coming!

**Note.** Don't make up dried eggs until you are ready to use them; they should not be allowed to stand after they've been mixed with water or other liquid. Use dry when making cakes and so on, and add a little more moisture when mixing.

**FREE – DRIED EGG LEAFLET** containing many interesting recipes will be sent on receipt of a postcard addressed to Dept. 628A, Food Advice Service, Ministry of Food, London, W.1



ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

# 26,000

The number of bone 'spatulas' found at a prehistoric site in south Wales, which may have been used as Stone Age spoons for scooping out bone marrow.



## SMASHING GOOD TIME

The inappropriate use of champagne is part of an old tradition of sacrificial ceremonies



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### TOO MUCH TO DRINK

In 1814, a giant vat at the Horse Shoe Brewery burst open, sending 1 million litres of beer spilling into the streets of St Giles, London. Several buildings were destroyed or damaged by the five-metre tidal wave, including, ironically, a pub.

# Why is champagne smashed on a ship before it's launched?

Launching a ship has always been accompanied by some form of ceremony. The Babylonians are said to have slaughtered an ox whenever they launched a ship, while the Vikings killed a slave. In 15th-century England, it was customary for a representative of the

king to drink a goblet of wine, sprinkle some on the deck of a new ship and then throw the goblet overboard. But, by the 18th century, so many ships were being built that this proved expensive, leading to bottles being used instead. The first time champagne was chosen was on the

ill-fated USS *Maine* in 1890. Champagne isn't exclusively used, though. Cunard ships are launched using white wine, the Queen used a bottle of whisky to launch HMS Queen Elizabeth in 2014 and submarines are traditionally sent on their way with a bottle of home-brew beer.

# WHERE DOES THE PUB NAME 'PIG AND WHISTLE' COME FROM?

In 1393, King Richard II decreed every publican must, by law, "hang out a sign, otherwise he shall forfeit his ale". As there were so many inns in a town, each one needed its own name to avoid confusion.

Over the years, these monikers came to mean something different from their original purpose, so the 'Pig and Whistle' has several possible origins. The 'whistle' is

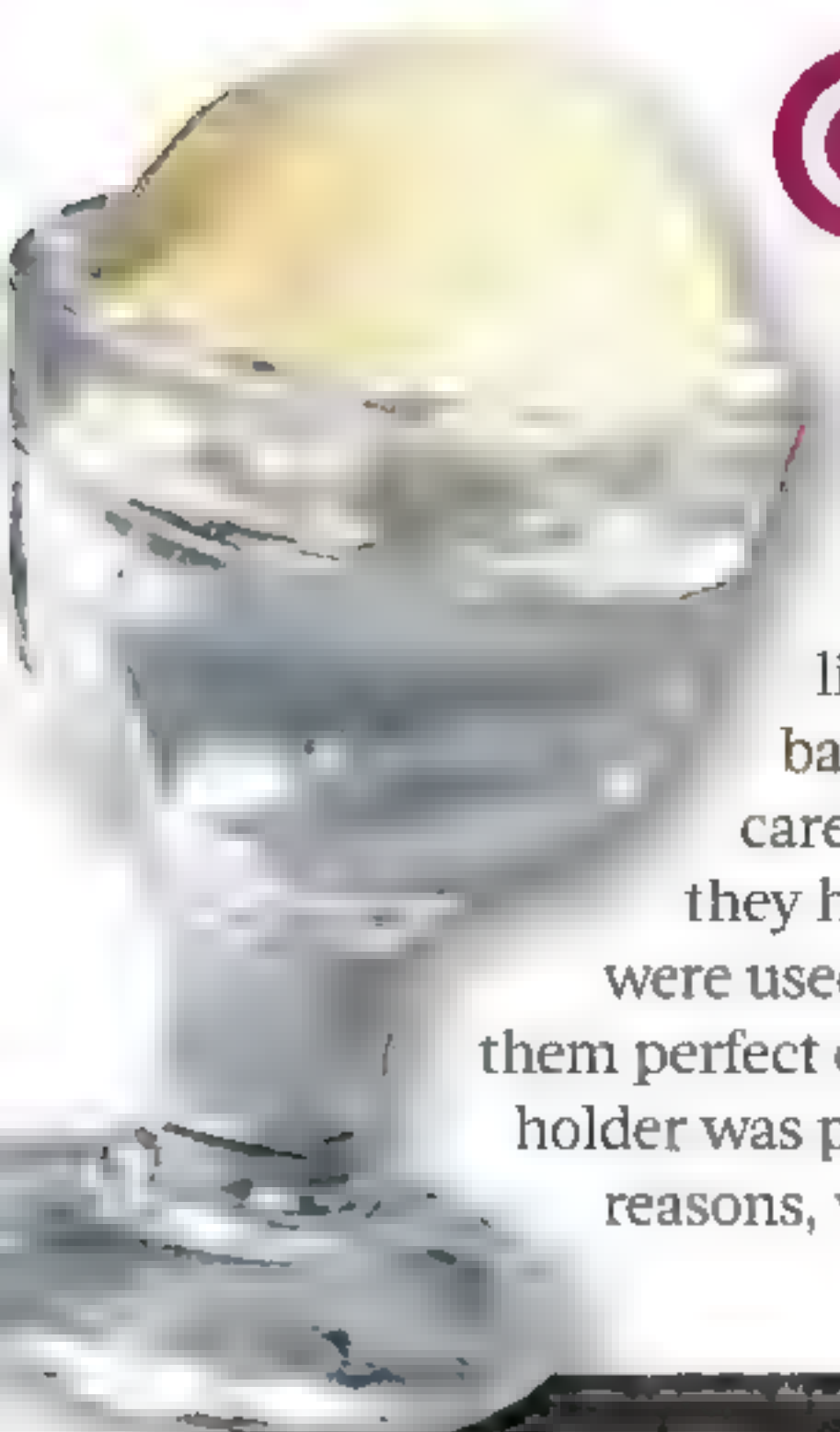


from the Anglo-Saxon greeting 'wassall' ('good health') while 'pig' may come from the Saxon word for a milking bucket, 'piggen'. It stands to reason that ale may have been served in pails with customers dipping in their mugs, or 'pigs', into the wassail bowl. A rather more holy theory is that it comes from 'Pige-Washall', the salutation by the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.



## What were 'Penny Lick' ice creams?

Decent ice cream was still a luxury in Victorian England, but cheap ices could be bought from street vendors across the land. 'Hokey Pokey' men used all kinds of tricks to make their wares go further. Penny Licks were attractive-looking glass vessels holding a tiny amount of ice cream, which sold, naturally, for a penny. Customers licked clean the contents then gave the cup back. What they didn't know was the cups were carefully made from thick glass to look as though they held more than they really did. Moreover, they were used repeatedly without being cleaned, making them perfect conductors for disease. A pastry ice-cream holder was patented in New York in 1903 and, for obvious reasons, wafer-style ice cream cones caught on.



## HOW OLD IS BREAD?

The earliest recognisable forms of flat bread, made from a paste of ground cereals and water, appear with the first farming communities of the Fertile Crescent, about 10,000 years ago. Although the agriculturalist diet was less nutritionally diverse than that of earlier hunter gatherers, the importance of bread in the development of human society shouldn't be underestimated. Without the intensification of cereal production, early farming communities would have had insufficient food resources to supply those engaged in non procurement activities, such as art and literature. Without bread, civilisation could have taken a very different turn.



Swiss émigré Carlo Gatti set up the first ice cream stand in 1851



## HOW WAS GARUM MADE?

Many ancient civilisations had a curious weakness for *garum*, or *liquamen*. Made from fermented fish blood and guts, the sauce was fundamental to Roman cookery.

The entrails of large fish were pounded with whole bodies of smaller fish, such as anchovies, and heavily salted. This gooey mass would then be allowed to sit, and rot, for up to two months, after which time the fluid was strained to make a condiment Romans splashed over pretty much all of their dishes. The sticky residue of the fish was also used for culinary purposes.

Romans might have enjoyed the taste of garum, but the smell was another thing. Garum factories were banned from town centres, and archaeologists can still smell the remains in unearthed jugs.

## DID A MR BRAMLEY BREED THE BRAMLEY APPLE?

Between 1809 and 1815, Mary Ann Brailsford planted an apple pip in her back garden in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. The resulting fruit was so large, delicious and disease-resistant that nurseryman Henry Merryweather asked to take cuttings for his commercial orchard. By now, though, the garden belonged to local butcher Matthew Bramley, who agreed on condition the apples bore his name. Bramley's Seedling now accounts for 95 per cent of all cooking apple sales in

Britain. The original tree still produces fruit, despite being blown over in a gale in 1900, but is, sadly, bearing signs of a potentially fatal infection.





# In the Georgian Navy, what was grog?

## WHY'S THE RUM GONE?

The daily tot of rum remained a tradition in the Royal Navy until 1970 - Black Tot Day

**Target** During the 1730s, sailors in the British Royal Navy received a daily ration of rum, as it was safer than the dirty water and it didn't spoil as quickly as beer.

However, fear of drunkenness aboard warships packed with weapons and gunpowder persuaded Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon to dilute the ration in 1740. This weaker 'grog' was affectionately named in honour of Vernon's fondness for wearing a waterproof cloak made of grogram fabric (a blend of silk, wool and gum).

When ascorbic acid's ability to combat scurvy was medically proven in 1755, naval regulations required lime to be added to grog, thereby inspiring the 'limeys' nickname given to Brits (see page 43 for more).



## DID YOU KNOW?

### DIET FIT FOR A KING

Recent research has given clues to the diet of Richard III. Isotope analysis of his bone and teeth revealed that he ate fancy meats such as swan, crane, egret and heron and in his later years drank the equivalent of a bottle of wine a day.

## WELL THUMBED

The recipe-packed, fourth-century *Apicius* manuscript was the *Mrs Beeton's* of its time

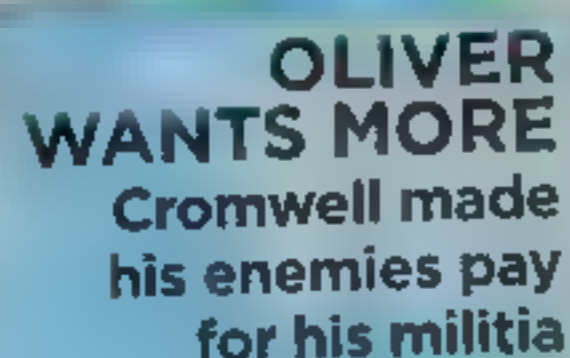


## WHAT IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN COOKBOOK?

**Target** Recipes have been compiled in just about every literate human society. Perhaps the earliest-known collection dates to around the late fourth century, and was then copied into manuscript in the ninth century. Known as the *Apicius* manuscript or *De re culinaria* ('On Cooking'), the work was written in Latin and organised into ten chapters, including 'Chopped Meats', 'Fowl' and 'Seafood'. The author 'Apicius' is most likely a pseudonym, referring to an extravagant gourmet of that name from first-century Rome. The first printed version came in 1498.



# WHAT ARE THE ODDDEST THINGS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAXED ON?

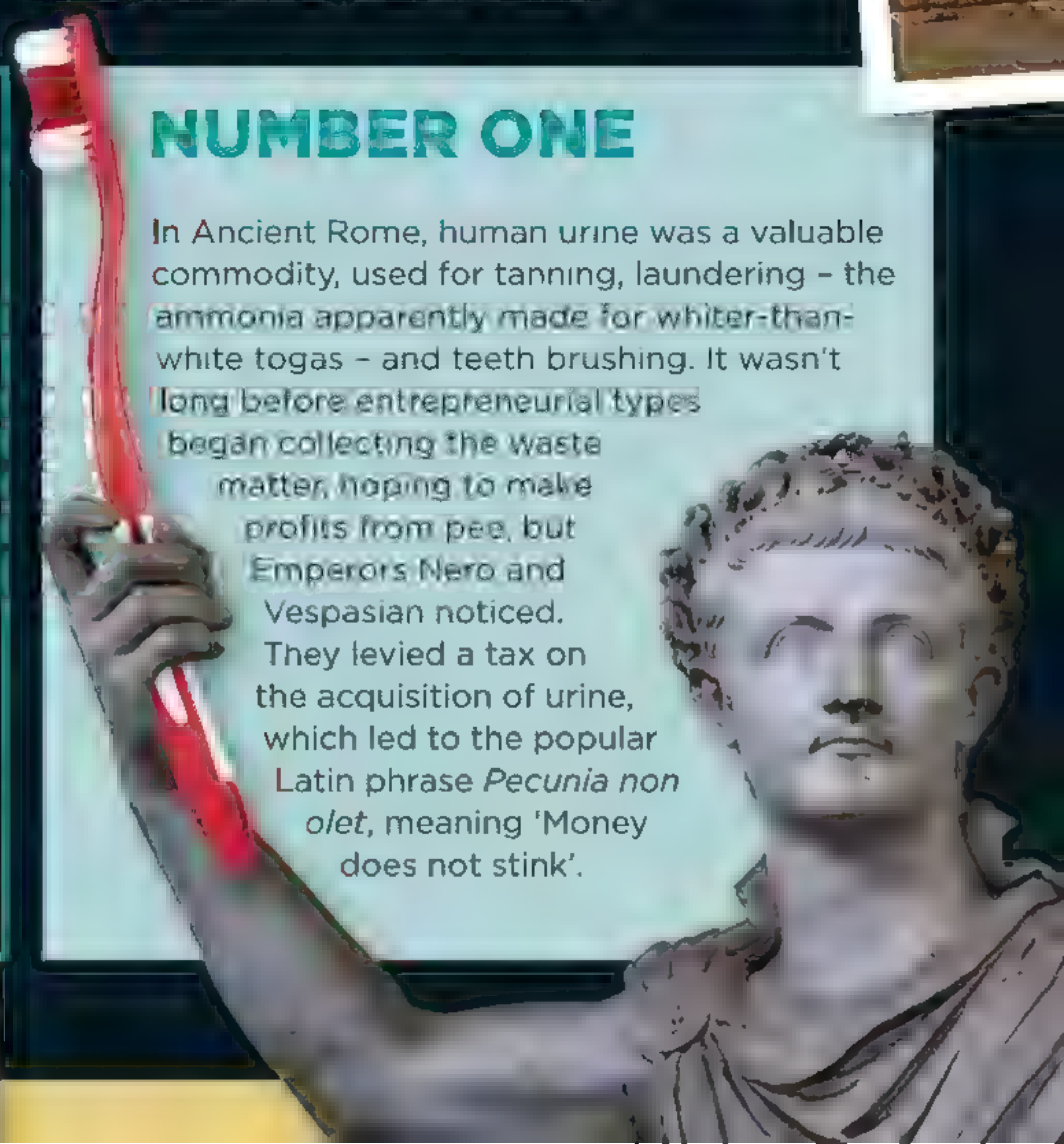

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 & \text{10. } \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

Briefly in the 19th century, women of lower caste in Travancore, India, had to pay to cover their breasts in public. This tax, *mulakkaram*, led to an extraordinary act of rebellion. A woman named Nangeli refused to comply, so cut off her own breasts and handed them to a tax collector on a plantain leaf. She died from her wounds, but the tax was abolished.



In a bid to westernise Russian society, in 1698, Peter the Great slapped a tax on what he deemed an outdated fashion choice, the beard. So men had a choice: shave or stump up. Those who opted to retain their face fuzz would be given a token as proof of payment. King Henry VIII levied a similar tax on Tudor England, with the amount depending on the gent's standing in society. Facial hair, therefore, quickly became a symbol of stature.

In Ancient Rome, human urine was a valuable commodity, used for tanning, laundering – the ammonia apparently made for whiter-than-white togas – and teeth brushing. It wasn't long before entrepreneurial types began collecting the waste matter, hoping to make profits from pee, but Emperors Nero and Vespasian noticed. They levied a tax on the acquisition of urine, which led to the popular Latin phrase *Pecunia non olet*, meaning 'Money does not stink'.







NEW C.I. 5 SERIES

**PRICE PER HEAD**  
James Pon was only a boy when his father borrowed \$1,000 to pay the Chinese Head Tax

whose photograph is attached  
re hereunder mentioned, the sum  
being the head tax due under the  
provision of Act No. 10,000  
claims to be

or funded  
day of  
the 3rd of  
23-10-1919



**OIL SPOILERS**  
Saqqara relief of scribes  
- Ancient Egypt's taxmen



## FAT TAX

Ancient Egypt gave us one of the oldest-known taxes, but it's a strangely small-fry levy from the land of gold and jewels: cooking oil. People tried to slip and slide out of it but tax collectors, or scribes, would visit houses to make sure they weren't re-using their fat, or cooking with cheaper alternatives. Not only was the tax paid to the pharaoh, but the oil itself was owned by the ruler. Kerching!

## COWARD'S TARIFF

If you were a knight in medieval England, it was considered a great honour to be called up to fight in service of the king, and your duty to oblige. But if you didn't really fancy it, you could pay *scutage*, popularly known as cowardice tax. Having begun in 1100, the scaredy-cat scutage evolved into a general tax on knights' land by the 13th century. It morphed further still before finally becoming redundant by the 14th century.



## KICKING UP A STINK

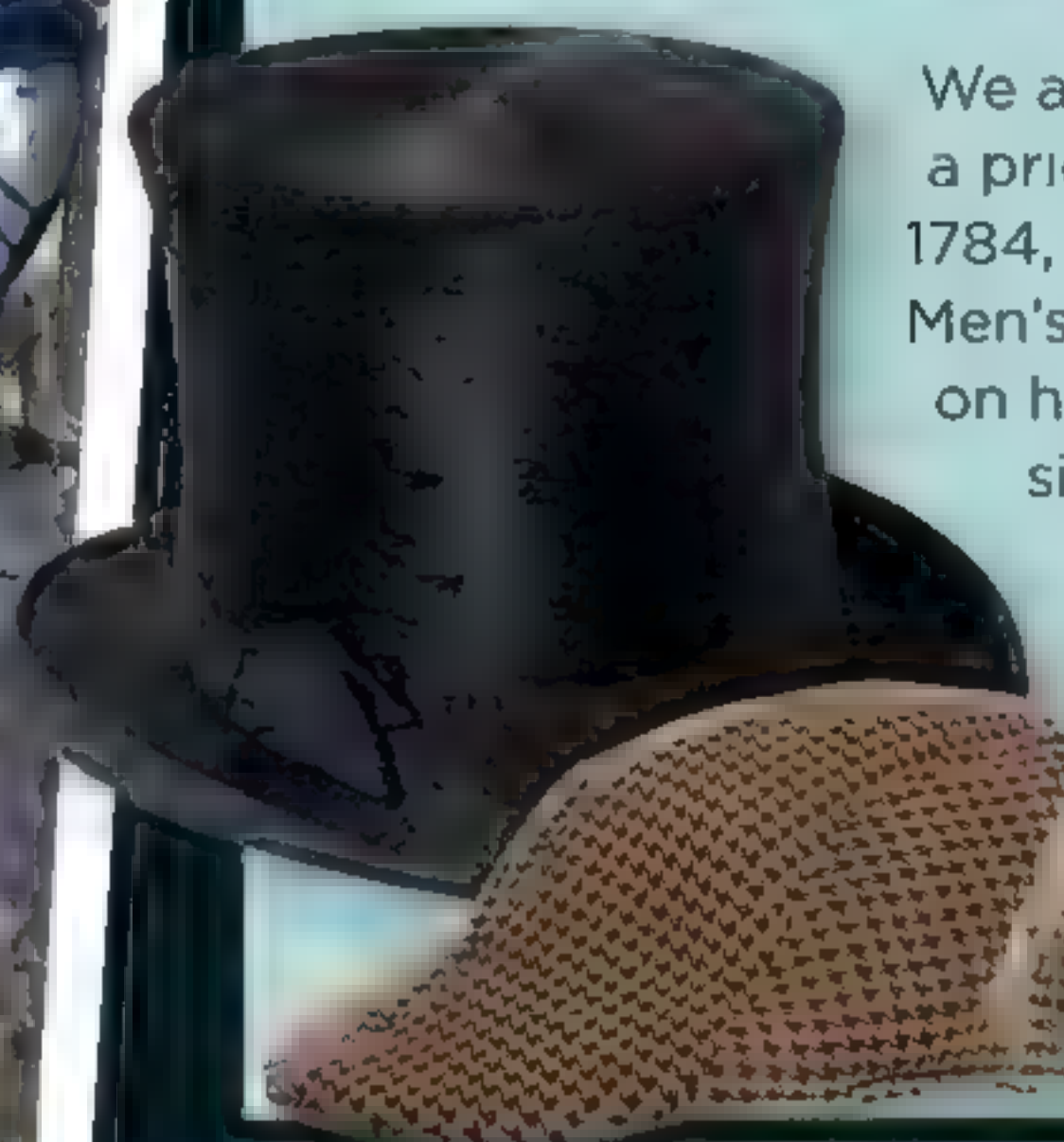
The fact that the upper classes tended to think of the lower classes as smelly ingrates might have something to do with a 141-year tax on soap. A heavy tax was placed on the sudsy stuff in 1712, and it was too much for the poorer-paid. Indeed, it was such a burden that soap makers began to make their product off the books for the black market, after which tax collectors took to locking the lids of the soap boiling pans overnight.



## HEARTH OF THE HOME

## HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS

We all know that you can't put a price on style but, starting in 1784, the British government tried. Men's hats were taxed depending on how expensive they were. So a simple flat cap, costing under four shillings, warranted a threepence charge, while the more expensive styles - including the early top hats, which were valued at over 12 shillings - cost the wearer two shillings.





# BRITAIN & THE BRITISH

## DID YOU KNOW?

### THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

No. 1. The first dragon slaying show was held in England in 1667. It was called 'The Dragon Slaying Show' and was described as 'very pretty' and 'noted that the event was a 'great resort' for men of fashion.

**GEORGE AND THE DRAGON**  
Crusaders brought the legend of Saint George's dragon slaying to England

## WHO WAS SAINT GEORGE?

George, or Georgios in the correct Greek form, was either a Syrian or Palestinian officer in the Roman army. After he was tortured and executed for his religious beliefs, during the persecutions of the Christian faith by Emperor Diocletian in AD 303, he came to be revered as a martyr (and later a saint) by the church. Icons of George usually show him in full military

attire, with spear, helmet and a shield emblazoned with a red cross, and many depict him fighting a demon or dragon – thought to represent his ultimate battle against the powers of Satan.

The widespread veneration of George in Western Europe followed in the wake of the First Crusade, as many returning from the Holy Land were keen to associate themselves

with the strong and virtuous soldier, going as far as using his cross as their insignia.

In 1348, Edward III of England adopted St George as spiritual patron for his chivalric 'Order of the Garter'. By the mid-15th century, the muscular George had replaced the earlier Saxon kings Edward 'the Confessor' (died 1066) and Edmund 'the Martyr' (died 869) as patron saint of England.



# Were there many wars between the **Anglo-Saxon kingdoms**?



**ANGLO-SAXON ALLIES**  
Alfred the Great's defeat of the Vikings helped stop fighting between the Anglo-Saxons

© Throughout human history, every tribal society has engaged in competition, which has often spilled over into open hostility. So why would the early English be any different?

By the seventh century, the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Britain had formalised into the 'Heptarchy' of Wessex, Sussex, Essex, Kent, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria. They were in a near permanent state of conflict and political manoeuvring, ranging from strategic marriage alliances to border raids and all-out war. Of all the kingdoms, it was Mercia, in the English Midlands, that eventually reigned supreme.

That lasted until the arrival of the Danes in the ninth century. It was actually the presence of the all-conquering and vicious Viking armies that forced the English to put aside their animosities and unite against this common enemy, which helped establish the authority of Wessex, under King Alfred, and define Saxon identity in the face of sustained attack.

## WHERE DID THE 'STIFF UPPER LIP' COME FROM?

© Although the British are known for their emotional restraint, the nation's history shows a contrary tendency. Many 16th-century visitors to England were struck by the tactile, demonstrative people, with one saying: "Wherever you move, there is nothing but kisses". Public weeping and fainting as expressions of passion was encouraged until the 18th century.

The French Revolution, however, led the British to turn from the emotional excesses of its neighbours towards an ideal of 'vigorous masculinity'. Instilled by the Victorians, British resilience cemented in the 20th century, particularly during WWII as people coped with personal and national tragedy.



**3,000**

The number of 'watermen', or water taxis, that patrolled the River Thames in Tudor times.



## **HAS A WOMAN EVER WON THE VICTORIA CROSS?**

© Although women have been eligible for Britain's highest military decoration, the Victoria Cross, since the 1920s, no woman has yet been the recipient of one. The 19th-century nurse Elizabeth Webber Harris is

the closest a woman has come, after displaying "indomitable pluck" while tending soldiers in India. She was the only woman willing to remain with her husband's regiment, the Bengal Fusiliers, during the cholera

epidemic of 1869, risking not only disease but attacks from the local tribesmen. The soldiers she treated were so struck by Harris's bravery that they received special permission to award her with a replica VC (pictured).



## WHAT WAS CHRISTMAS LIKE IN A VICTORIAN PRISON?



What was Christmas like in a Victorian prison? The answer is not what you might expect. In the early 19th century, prisons were not places of punishment but of reform. Prisons were run by the state and were not for-profit institutions. Prisons were not places of punishment but of reform. Prisons were run by the state and were not for-profit institutions. Prisons were not places of punishment but of reform. Prisons were run by the state and were not for-profit institutions.

6

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## WHAT DOES 'CHESTER' MEAN?

THE ONLY  
WAY IS ESSEX  
Colchester is  
Britain's oldest  
Roman town,  
established soon  
after the conquest



Perhaps the most commonly seen element in the names of British towns is the suffix 'chester'. It can appear in a variety of other forms, such as 'castor', 'caistor', 'cester' and 'eter', and the Welsh prefix 'Caer' or 'Car'. They all derive from the Latin *castra*, meaning 'camp', and it usually implies that those places had a Roman origin.

This is essentially true, but what tends to be overlooked is that 'chester' and its variants do not appear in place names until the late- or post-Roman, period. Therefore, a town with *castra* in the name strongly suggests that it had continued to be used

and defended

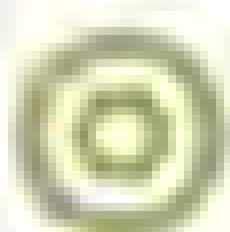
even as the political system broke down during the fifth century. This is certainly the case with places like Colchester, Gloucester, Cardiff, Caernarvon and Exeter.

COLCHESTER

EXPRESS SERVICES AND CHEAP FARES  
BY LNER

Classical Colchester Town Centre Colchester

## Did most English pirates really talk with a West Country accent?



One of history's most notorious pirates almost certainly had a West Country twang: Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach, born in Bristol around 1680. Yet the other accents that would probably have been heard in the Caribbean, the region most known for pirate activity in the late 17th century,

were those of Devon and Cornwall, because of those counties' strong maritime links.

However, many of the best known British pirates and buccaneers weren't English at all. Henry Morgan and Bartholomew Roberts were Welsh, Anne Bonny came from Ireland and Captain Kidd was born in Dundee.

When Dorset-born actor Robert Newton played the archetypal pirate, Long John Silver, in Walt Disney's 1950 film version of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, he adopted a preposterous but unforgettable Cornish brogue, later reprising it in *Blackbeard the Pirate* (1952) and *Long John Silver* (1954). The accent has been indelibly linked with piracy ever since.

"Alright, me  
luvver?"

DID YOU  
KNOW?

SELFLESS STATUE

The statue of Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach is located in the grounds of the Bristol City Council. The statue is a memorial to the pirate and is made of bronze. The statue is a memorial to the pirate and is made of bronze. The statue is a memorial to the pirate and is made of bronze.

FIERY TEMPER  
Edward 'Blackbeard'  
Teach reputedly tied  
lit tapers in his hair













## WHY IS THE EPSOM HORSE RACE KNOWN AS THE 'DERBY'?

**Target** The prestigious annual horse-racing event at Epsom Downs, Surrey, is officially named the 'Derby Stakes'. It first took place in 1780, as part of the anniversary celebrations for the first run of another race, the Oaks Stakes, a year earlier. There was a debate over whether the event should be named after the host – Edward Smith Stanley, the Earl of Derby – or esteemed guest Sir Charles Bunbury, but the former won out (after a coin toss, as the story goes). Bunbury, however, had his revenge when his colt Diomed won the mile-long inaugural race, on 4 May 1780.

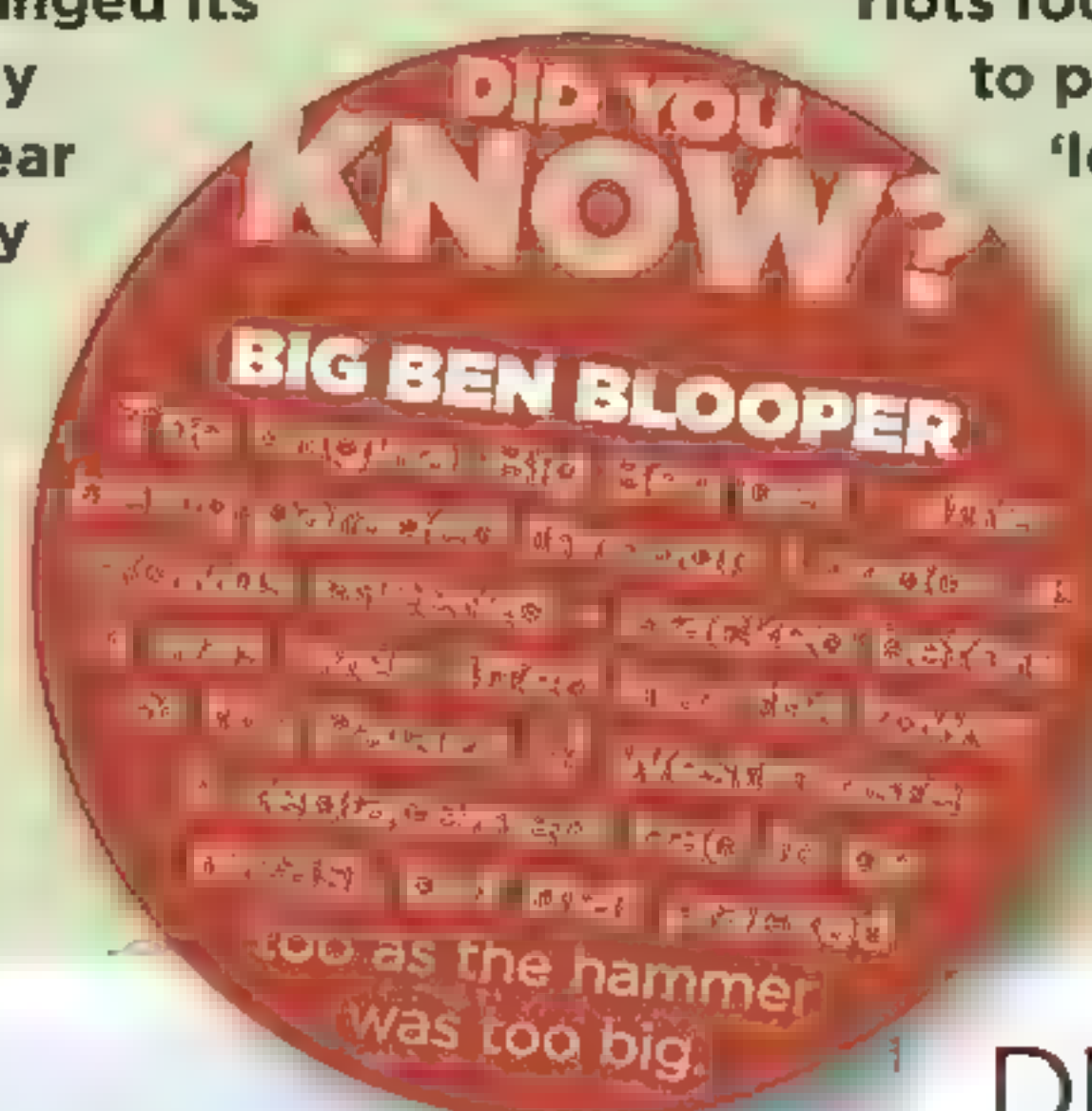


## Why does the British financial year start on 6 April?

**Target** Most countries use New Year as the start of their financial year. Britain is unique in holding taxpayers to account on what seems like a random date in April. In 1582, the rest of Europe changed its calendar to correct an anomaly between the Roman 'Julian' year and the time the Earth actually takes to travel round the Sun. The new 'Gregorian' year was created on the orders of Pope Gregory XIII. King Henry VIII had fallen out with Rome, however, so England stayed with the old system. People settled

accounts four times a year on 'quarter days', the first being Lady Day, 25 March.

In 1752, Britain finally joined the Gregorian system, skipping 11 days to adjust. Street riots focused around people having to pay tax for a full year despite 'losing' 11 days. The government moved the date forward to 5 April to keep the 365 days, then in 1800, a leap year saw the date shift again. After all the fuss, no one could bear any more changes, and the British tax year has stayed at 6 April ever since.



## HOW PECULIAR

The 'Peculiar' Palace of Holyroodhouse, Scottish residence of the Queen



## WHAT IS A ROYAL PECULIAR?

**Target** If a church is not under the jurisdiction of its local diocese or bishop, but answers directly to the monarch, it is known as a 'Royal Peculiar'. In Anglo-Saxon times, there were other 'peculiars' too – archbishops, bishops or deans of cathedrals, Knights Templar and

Knights Hospitallers all had their own peculiars. Most disappeared in the 19th century, but some peculiars, including royal ones, remain. St George's Chapel, Windsor, the Chapel Royal, Holyrood Palace and the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court are all examples.

## DID THE ANGLES, SAXONS AND JUTES SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE?

**Target** English is, at its roots, a Germanic language. The colonising tribes that migrated from north-west Europe to Britain from around the fifth century all spoke a version of 'Old English' – which would be incomprehensible to us today. This became dominant after the withdrawal of the Romans, and replaced pre-existing languages in areas where new English-speaking migrants took control. It is, however, likely that there was considerable variation in accent, dialect and forms of expression between the tribes. Such variation appears to have dwindled following the unification of England by the kings of Wessex in the later ninth century, but crucial elements of dialect may well survive in the regional accents of today.



# When was the last battle between English and Scottish armies?

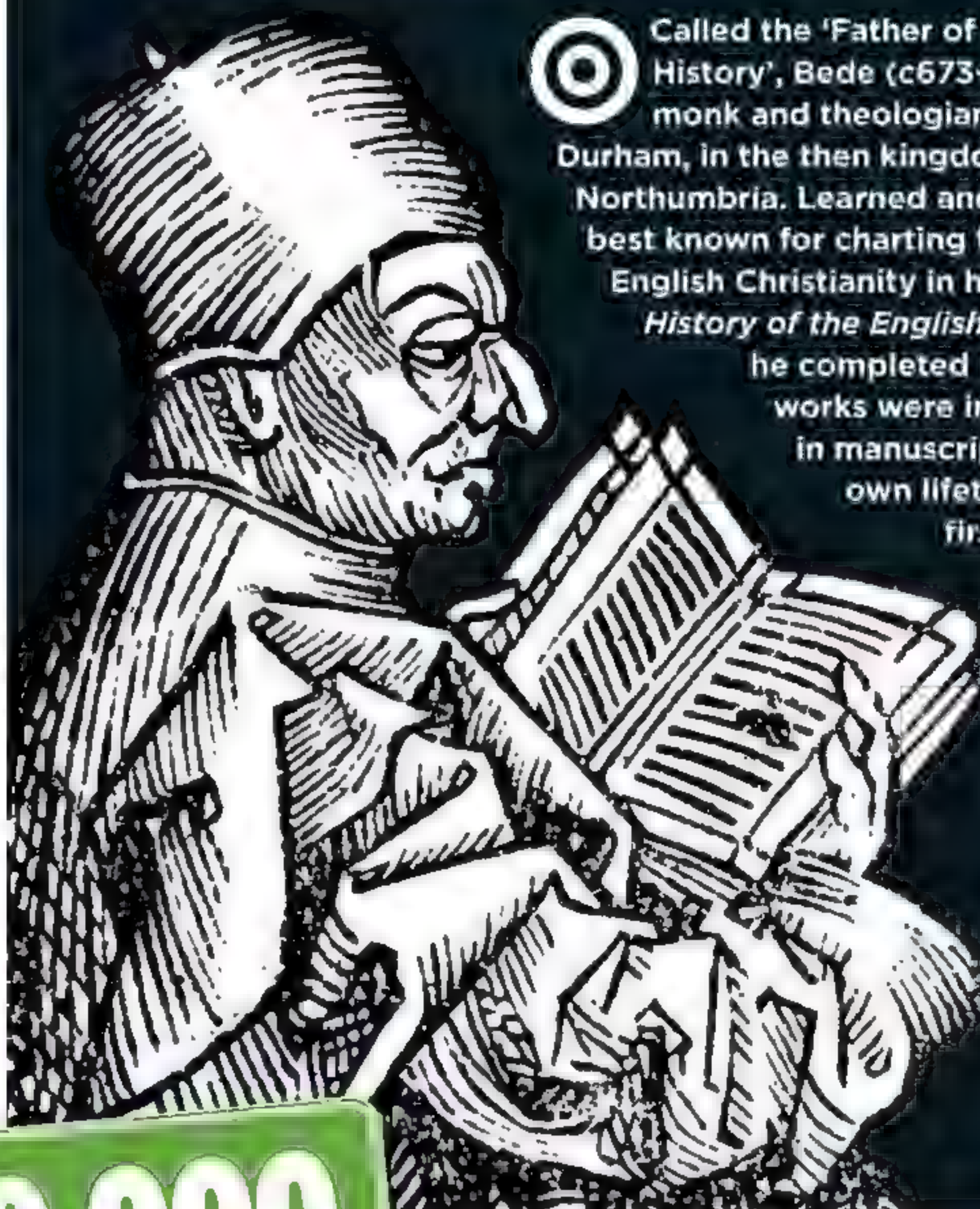
⊙ Fought on 10 September 1547, the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh was the last formal battle between England and Scotland. It was a decisive English victory in their attempt to force an alliance by marrying the young Mary, Queen of Scots to the boy-king Edward VI (a campaign later known as the 'Rough Wooing', which was at its height between 1544-8). The two armies met near the coast at Musselburgh, where, in a five-hour battle, the Scottish troops were ultimately surrounded by an efficient and more modern fighting force. While English losses stood at around 500, estimates suggest those of Scotland were anything between 6,000 and 14,000 – many of whom were slaughtered as they retreated. In spite of this, the English did not achieve their aim. Mary was smuggled out to their enemies and betrothed to Francis, heir to the French throne.

**SCOTTISH SLAUGHTER**  
Thousands of Scots were killed in the latest battle



19,000

# WHO WAS ENGLAND'S EARLIEST HISTORIAN

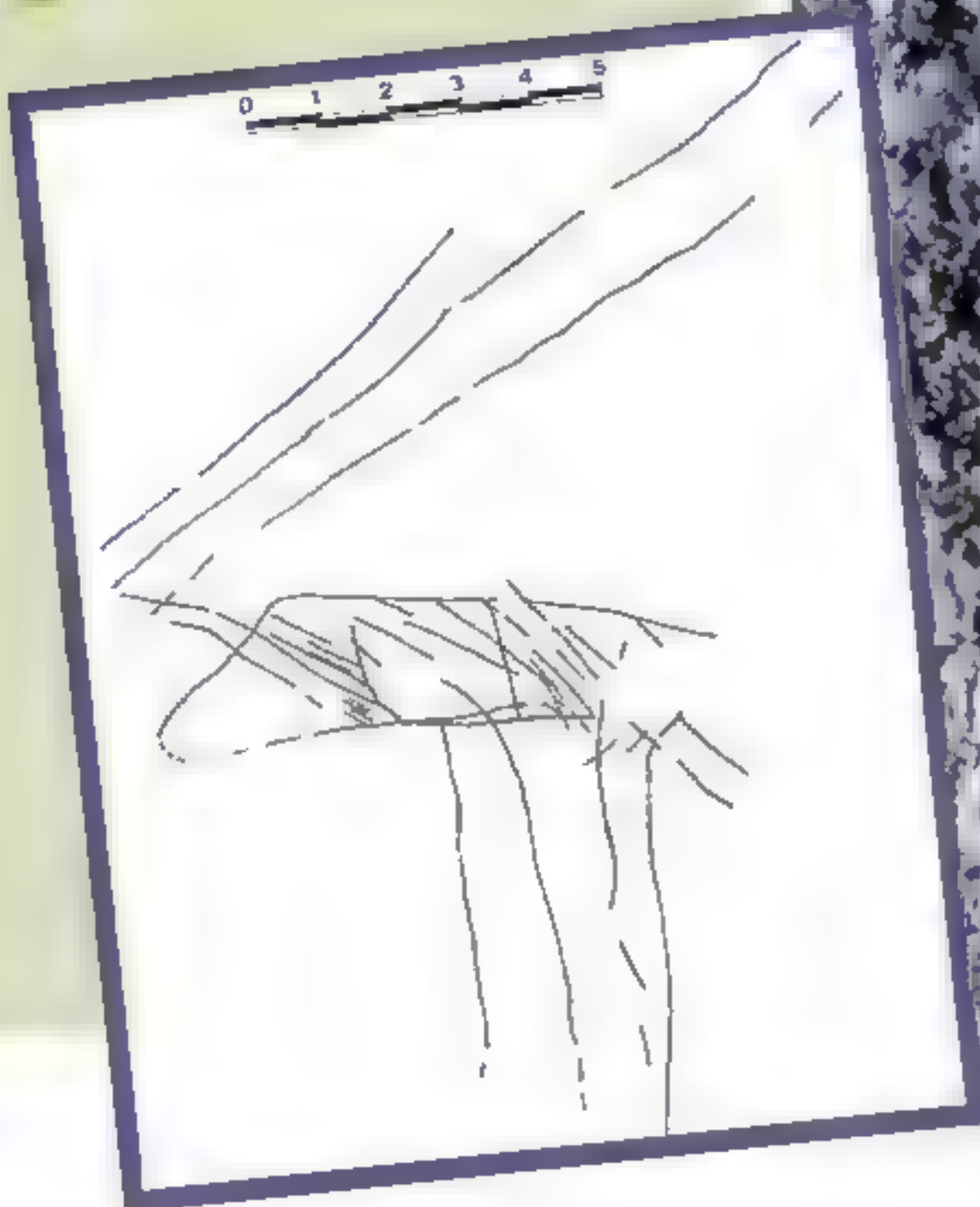


⊙ Called the 'Father of English History', Bede (c673-735 AD) was a monk and theologian from County Durham, in the then kingdom of Northumbria. Learned and prolific, he is best known for charting the progress of English Christianity in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, which he completed in AD 731. His works were in great demand in manuscript during his own lifetime and were first put into print as early as the 1470s.

**BEDE-Y EYE**  
The monk and trailblazing historian

# WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF ART IN BRITAIN?

⊙ The earliest-known art forms identified in the British Isles are the 13,000-year-old depictions of a stag, a bison and birds carved into the walls of Creswell Crags on the border of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Yet there's a reindeer engraving in Cathole Cave, near Swansea, which may have been drawn 14,000 years ago. Sadly, these pieces of representational art were damaged over time by surface erosion and, later, graffiti.



**ANCIENT ANTLERS**  
The 15x11cm reindeer – traced using digital imaging – was carved with a sharp-pointed tool



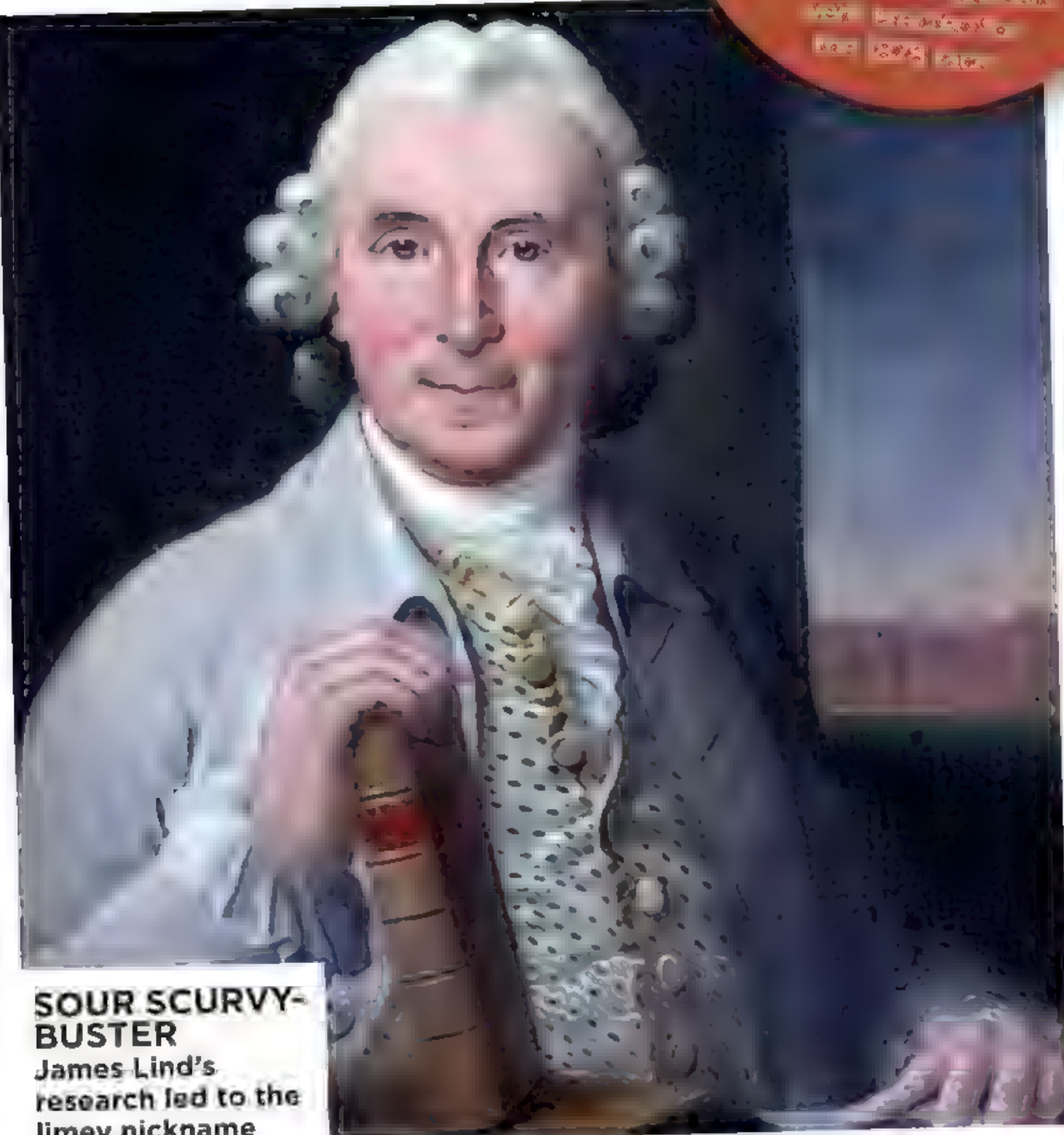
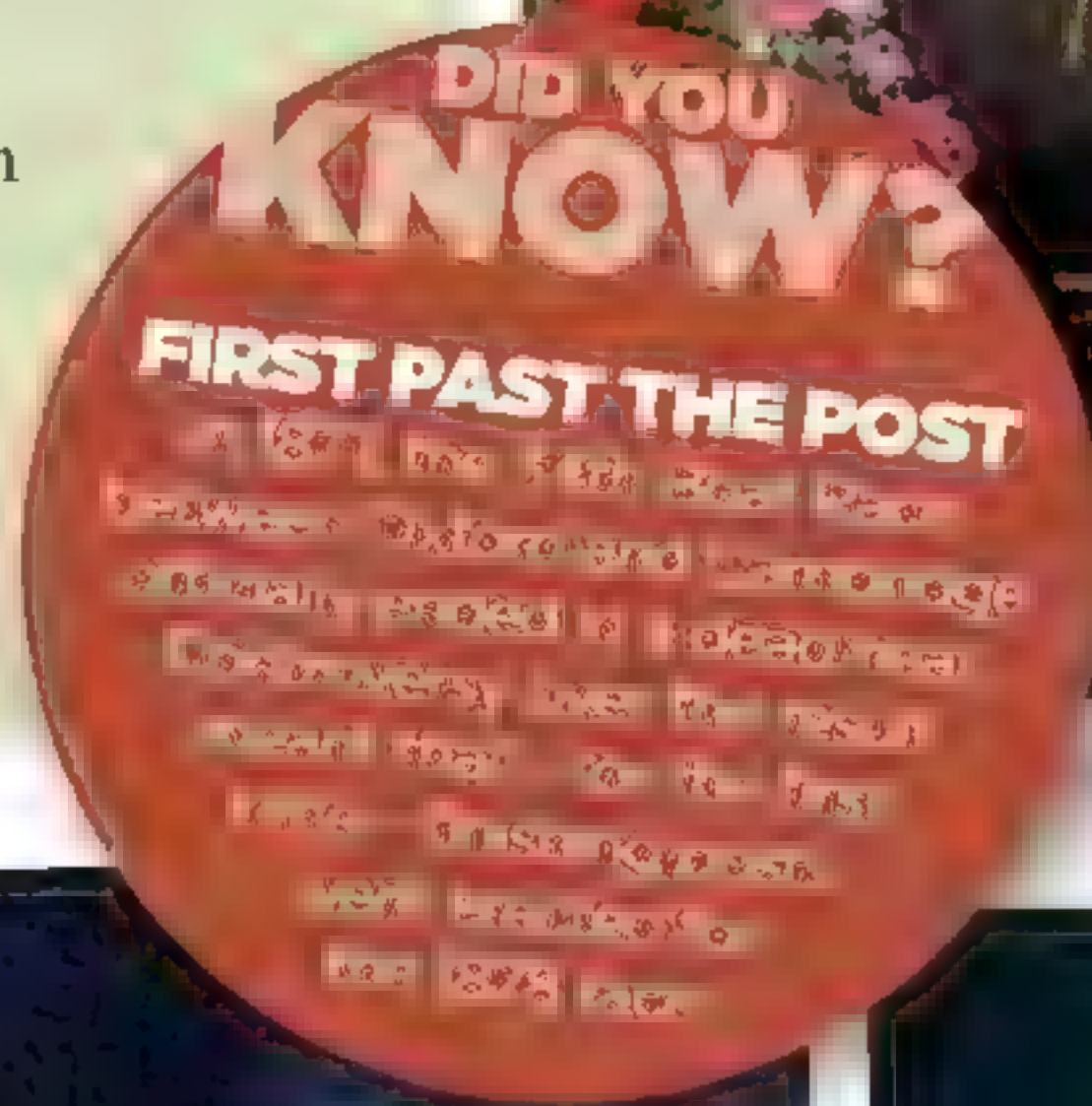
# What is the earliest evidence of a calendar year date in the UK?

**BACK DATED**  
Arabic numerals would be added to buildings at a later date, such as on Mulberry Hall in York

© Hindu-Arabic numerals were developed in India around 1,500 years ago, but did not begin to show up in European texts until the tenth century. The symbols remained rare until the Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci introduced them to a wider audience in 1202. From then, travelling merchants helped spread them out of Italy and into Britain, so that during the 1200s, carpenters at Salisbury Cathedral were numbering timber beams with Arabic numerals.

Medieval graffiti, building inscriptions and gravestones, however, suggest calendar years weren't written in Arabic numerals until the 1400s. This was partly due to the custom of measuring the regnal year of a ruling monarch (so 1415 was the second year of Henry V).

A possible candidate for earliest date is an inscription reading '1445' at All Saints Church in Heathfield, East Sussex. Certainly, it was in the 15th century that Arabic numerals became more frequent, thanks to Gutenberg and Caxton using them extensively in printing, although Roman numerals would still be commonplace until the 18th century.



**SOUR SCURVY-BUSTER**  
James Lind's research led to the limey nickname

## WHY DO AMERICANS CALL BRITS 'LIMEYS'?

🎯 In 1747, Scottish surgeon James Lind conducted the world's first clinical trial, proving that lemon or lime juice prevented scurvy. The disease, caused by a lack of vitamin C, was particularly suffered by sailors. Lind's findings convinced the Royal Navy to issue lime juice in its official grog ration, which helped British seamen become the healthiest in the world (for the time, at least). The name 'lime-juicers', though, was considered hilarious by Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans, who shortened it to 'limeys'. This soon came to describe British land-lubbers as well, and by the early 20th century, Americans had adopted the name too.





# TOP 10

## WHAT ARE THE GREATEST TALES OF SURVIVAL AGAINST THE ODDS?



The 1972 wreckage of the Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571



Chilean miner Juan Illanes reaches the surface

### MINER MIRACLE

They were known as the 'Los 33' and, for 69 days in the summer of 2010, their fate gripped the world. The 33 Chilean miners became trapped 700 metres underground after a cave-in at a copper-gold mine. An international rescue effort began and, on 13 October, the men were winched to safety, one by one, in front of a live global TV audience estimated in excess of 1 billion.

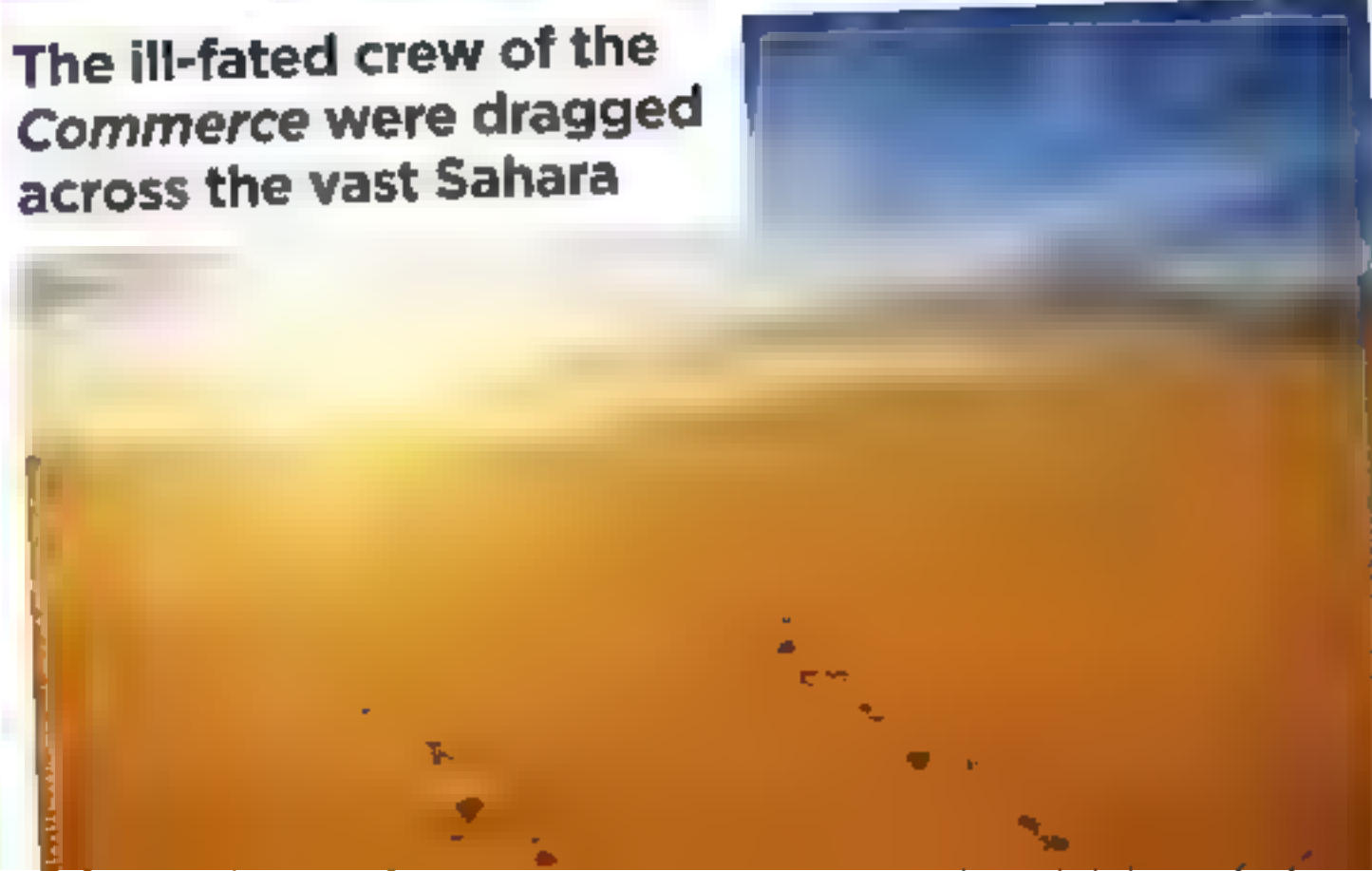
### ANDES ORDEAL

Dramatised in print and film, the story of the Uruguayan airplane that crashed in the Andes in 1972 is remembered both as a tragedy and a miracle. Several passengers were killed in the crash, and more died in an avalanche, but 16 survived, mostly rugby players on their way to a match in Chile. They had to eat the flesh of the dead and endured sub-zero temperatures before being rescued, following 72 days of freezing hell.

### SLAVES TO MISFORTUNE

After the US merchant ship *Commerce* ran aground off Morocco in 1815, tribesmen attacked the crew. One sailor died and the other ten took to their longboat to row down the coast, only to be captured by Bedouins. Enslaved, they ended their ordeal only after a march of several hundred miles through the Sahara, where they were sold at a British trading post.

The ill-fated crew of the *Commerce* were dragged across the vast Sahara



### PIONEERS IN PERIL

Led by George Donner, a wagon train of 87 pioneers set out from Illinois, in April 1846, bound for California, 2,500 miles to the west. Only 46 of the 'Donner Party' lived to tell the tale. Trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains as winter descended, the survivors were forced to feed on the dead until rescue finally arrived in the spring of 1847.





The Raft of the Medusa', painted by Théodore Géricault in the three years after the tragedy

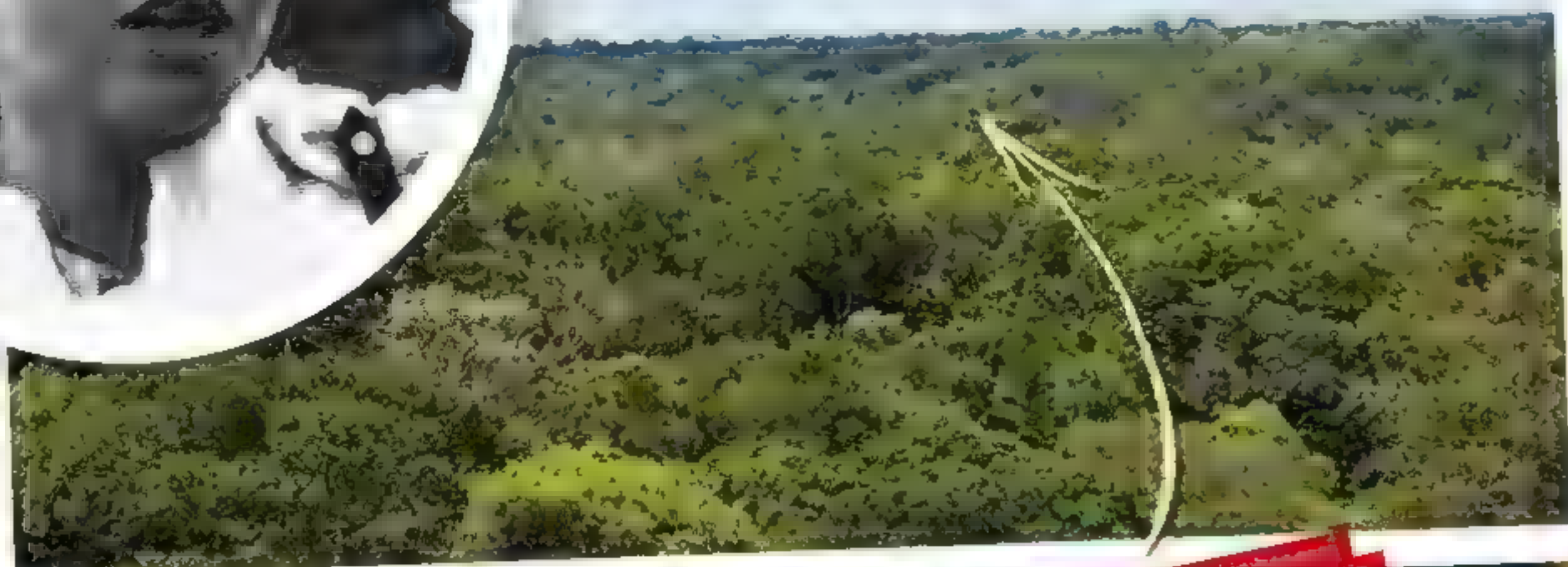


## ART OF SURVIVAL

When, in 1816, the French frigate *Medusa* wrecked off the African coast, 150 of the crew improvised a raft to survive. But only 15 came through the next 13 days. After their rescue, accounts of the survivors resorting to murder and cannibalism shocked Europe and inspired the painter, Théodore Géricault. His masterpiece, 'The Raft of the Medusa', hangs in the Louvre.



Koepcke fell into the Peruvian Amazon rainforest without a parachute, and survived



## PLANE INCREDIBLE

The survival of 17-year-old German Juliane Koepcke in December 1971 can hardly be believed. When the passenger jet in which she was travelling broke up during a storm, she fell 10,000 feet into the Peruvian rainforest. Suffering only a broken collarbone and deep cuts, the teen trekked ten days through the jungle to safety. Juliane had been travelling with her mother who, the girl later learnt, had also survived the fall but became trapped and died within a few days.

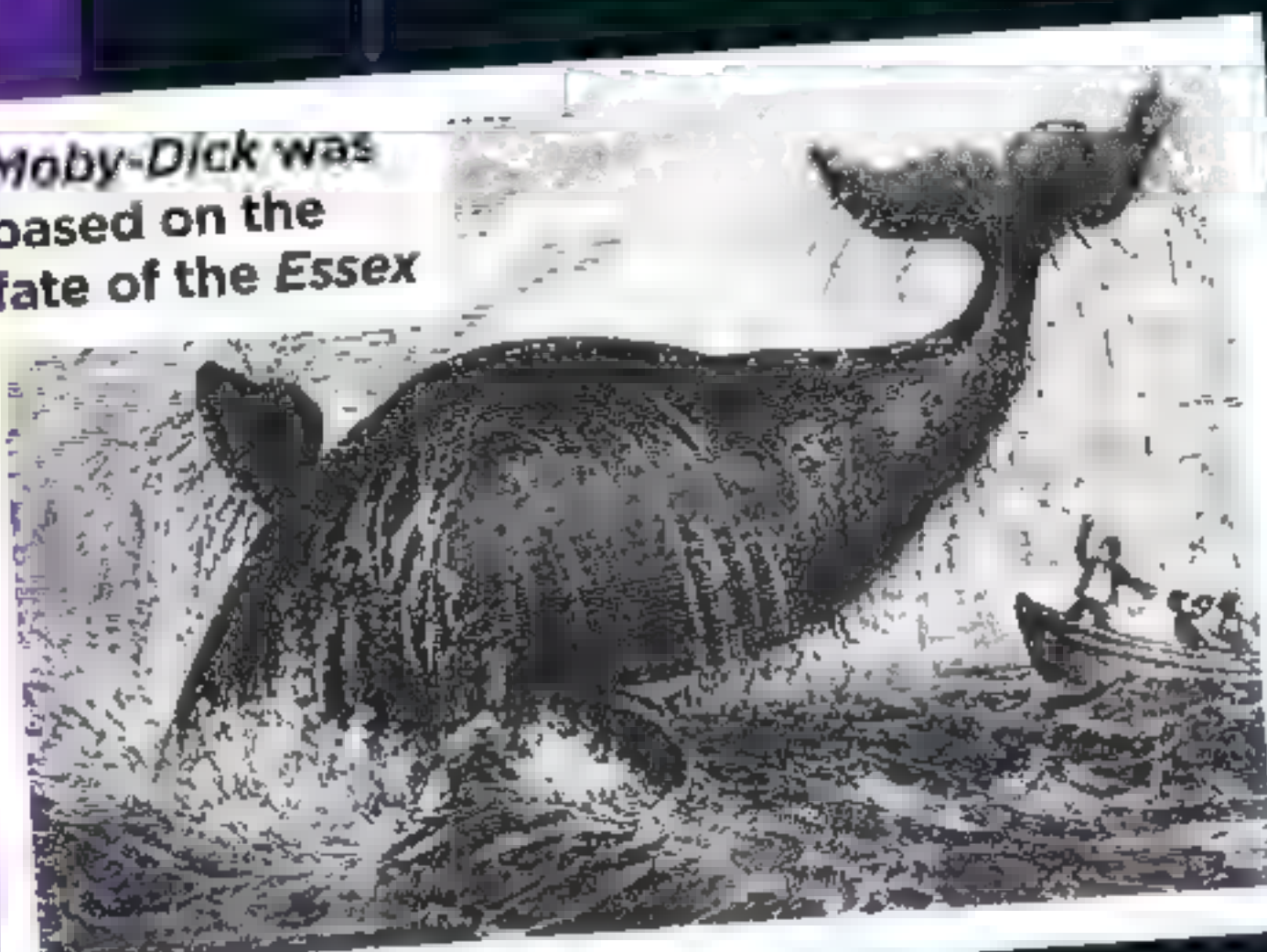


Alvarenga hugs his parents upon his return home

## OCEAN ODYSSEY

In January 2014, a small boat washed up on the Marshall Islands, with 36-year-old Jose Alvarenga from El Salvador inside. A year and one month earlier, he'd set off on a fishing trip with a friend from Mexico, 5,500 miles across the Pacific. Four months after a storm blew them off course, his pal died. Alvarenga survived on raw fish and rainwater.

*Moby-Dick* was based on the fate of the *Essex*

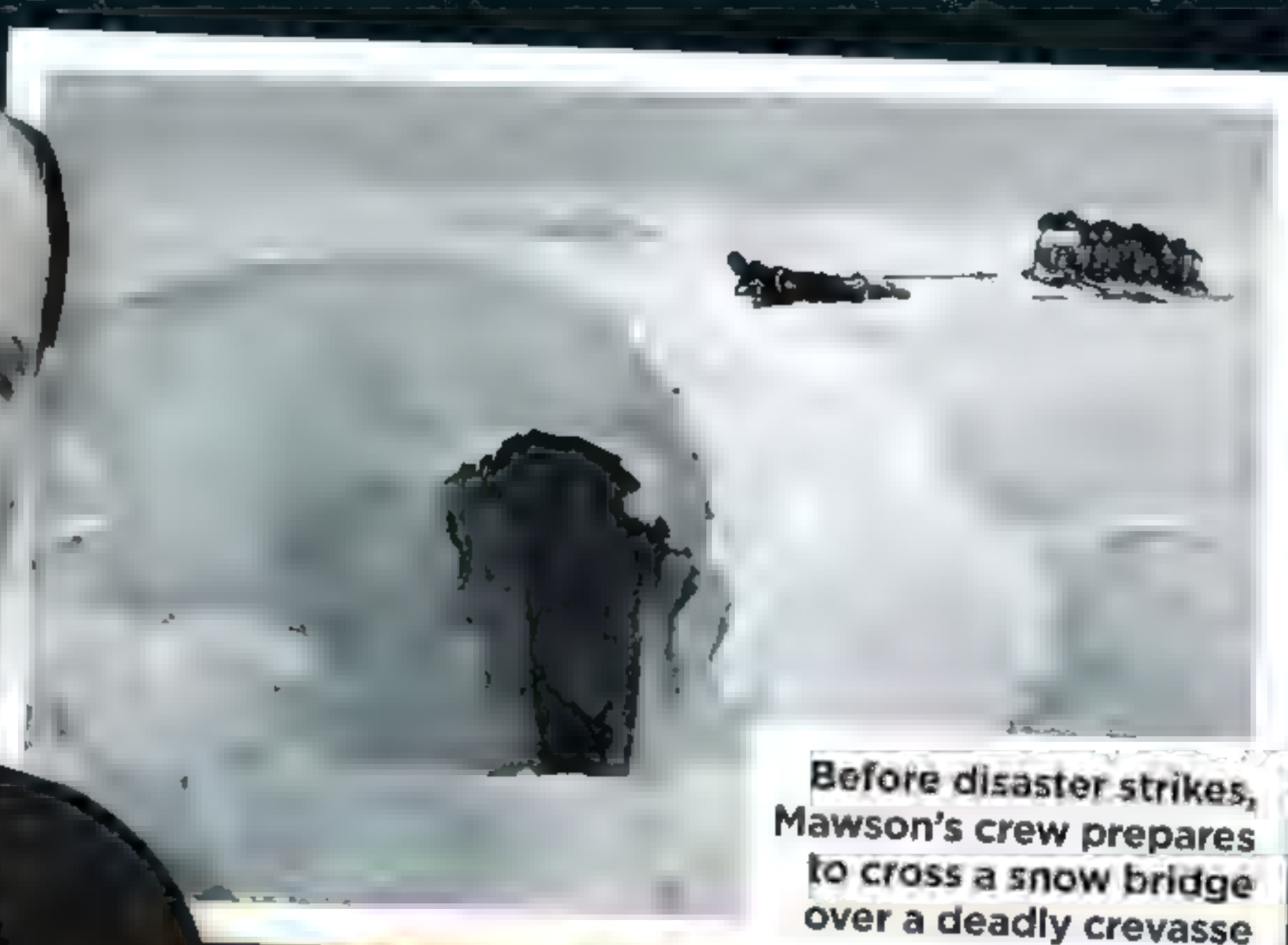
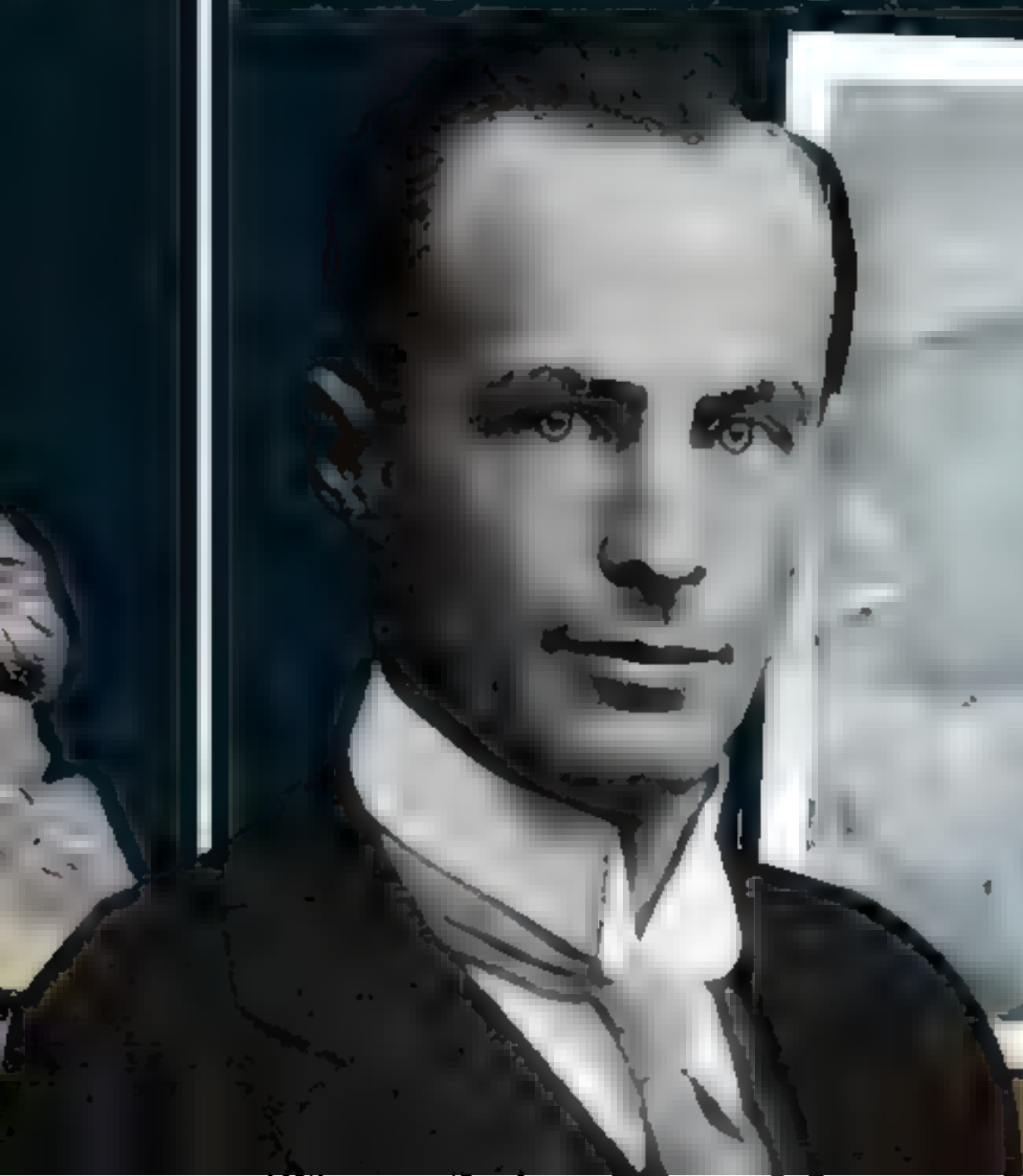


## "THAR SHE BLOWS"

Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick* was inspired by a real whaleship. While hunting in the South Pacific in 1820, the *Essex* was rammed by one of its prey, an unusually large whale, sinking the ship and sending the 20 crew members into three longboats. Eight survived the 95 days adrift, but only because they'd drawn lots to see who to sacrifice for food.

## ICY ISOLATION

Australian explorer and scientist Douglas Mawson and two friends set off to explore the eastern coast of Antarctica in November 1912. A month later, one of the men vanished down a crevasse, taking with him their tent and most of the food. The second explorer died of starvation in January but Mawson, despite suffering frostbite, hunger, and exhaustion, reached base camp by February 1913.



Before disaster strikes, Mawson's crew prepares to cross a snow bridge over a deadly crevasse

## OUT OF THE OUTBACK

Described as a "walking skeleton" when he emerged in April 2006, the 35-year-old Ricky McGee survived 71 days in the Australian Outback. He had lost 9st 4lbs in weight. His ordeal began when his car broke down and, after ten days walking aimlessly around the Northern Territory, he found an abandoned dam. He ate leeches, frogs and baby snakes until he was rescued.



Ricky McGee nearly starved in the Australian bush




# INNOVATIONS & INVENTIONS

DO YOU  
KNOW?

READ THE EPIC

**SHOP WINDOW**  
Adverts were used  
by the first printer  
in England, seen  
here in stained glass

## WHAT IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN ADVERTISEMENT IN ENGLISH?

 The country's earliest advertisement probably originated in the workshop of merchant William Caxton, England's first printer, and may have come in the form of a small poster printed in 1469. The 'little notice' announced the publication of a collection of rules for services commemorating the saints, as per the system used at Salisbury. Caxton promised that anyone wanting to buy a copy at his building at Westminster "shal have them good chepe". It is true, then, that the potential of print advertising was recognised as soon as print itself was introduced.







## When did **hand shaking** start?



Although the oldest depiction of the tactile greeting is a Greek carving from about 450 BC, showing two soldiers shaking hands, the gesture is almost certainly much older. The handshake is known across the Old World, though the specifics of the act vary between Europe, Asia and Africa. Given that the custom is not known among the indigenous populations of the Americas or Australia, it probably originated after about 15,000 years ago when those regions became cut off from Asia.

## WHY DID ELOPING TO GRETNA GREEN BEGIN?



In 1754, a law came into force forbidding those under the age of 21 from marrying in England without parental consent. This inevitably led to love-struck couples turning their eyes to Scotland. By the 1770s, the small village of Gretna Green, just over the border from England, had become a popular and increasingly accessible wedding destination for those planning to wed a minor (or a scoundrel) away from disapproving eyes.

# 1,093

The number of patents issued to Thomas Edison in the United States. More than a thousand were approved for the American inventor around the world.

## PHARAOH 'NUFF

Workers at Deir el-Medina, the site of this tomb, stood up for their rights against a pharaoh

## WHEN WAS THE FIRST STRIKE?



The first documented strike in history is thought to have been held by the craftsmen working on the royal tombs at Deir el-Medina, in the mid-12th century BC. Under the rule of Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses III, the workers protested against their insufficient and late rations – they had to buy their own wheat – by

organising a sit-down protest in the mortuary. The event is recorded in a single papyrus, which details the workers complaining that: “The prospect of hunger and thirst has driven us to this.”

After negotiations with the local officials, the strikers were eventually granted provisions and agreed to return to work.



## RUNAWAY BRIDE

Today, Gretna Green hosts 5,000 weddings each year



## WHO WAS THE FIRST WEATHER FORECASTER?

**FAMOUS FORECASTER**  
Robert Fitzroy, the 'Michael Fish' of his day



**FACTS** For millennia, people had tried to predict the weather using common folk wisdom.

More official forecasting didn't begin until the 1860s. Admiral Robert Fitzroy, famous for being Charles Darwin's captain on HMS Beagle, resorted to a series of false coastal warnings by publishing 'storm warnings'. Fitzroy had already

founded what is now the Met Office and, in 1861, began issuing daily weather forecasts in *The Times*.

This earned him both acclaim and mockery (when predictions proved inaccurate). Tragically, Fitzroy long struggled with depression and with the public scrutiny of his weather forecasting becoming too intense, he killed himself in 1865.

## WHEN WERE DINOSAUR FOSSILS DISCOVERED IN ENGLAND?



**FACTS** In 1677, Reverend Dr Robert Plot published his *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, in which he described part of a "gigantick" thigh bone unearthed in the parish of Cornwall. First, considering the possibility that it could have come from an elephant brought to England by the Romans, he later concluded that its shape suggested it must have belonged to a pre-Biblical man or woman of 'extravagant magnitude'.

It is now thought that this was in fact the thigh of a megalosaurus. Fossil collecting had become a popular pastime by the late 1700s, but it wasn't until the early 19th century that palaeontology became a scientific pursuit.



**THE PLOT THICKENS**  
Did Plot see the bone of an elephant or a dino?

Did Plot see the bone of an elephant or a dino?

## What is the earliest-known photograph?



**FACTS** Below is 'View from the Window at Le Gras', the oldest surviving photograph. Showing the view from his house in Chalon-sur-Saône, it was taken by French amateur scientist Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in either 1826 or 1827, using his invention called a 'heliograph'. Though his

efforts were largely focused on a combustion engine for boats, Niépce had been experimenting with methods of reproducing images for over a decade. For some years before his sudden death, he worked with Louis Daguerre, whose later photographic advances became an immense commercial success.



**STOPPING TIME**  
It took eight hours to capture this image





## WATERWAY TO GO

The Grand Canal in China is the longest man-made waterway in the world



## WHO BUILT THE FIRST CANALS?

**Target** Irrigation channels go back to the very earliest agricultural societies of antiquity. Complex water supply and storage facilities were being dug as early as the fifth millennium BC in Mesopotamia, and the Greeks developed sophisticated artificial waterways for the transportation of people and goods. The most impressive ancient canal, however, has to be the one established by Chinese Emperor Yang Guang in the early seventh century AD. Although heavily modified over time, and threatened by flooding, the 1,100-mile 'Grand Canal' is still in use.



## When were Brits first given leave from work to go on holiday?

**Target** In 1871, the Bank Holiday Act established the first paid days off for common workers in England, with senior managers being granted extra leave. The Trades Union Congress called for holiday on behalf of the masses in 1911, which led to some forward-thinking employers gradually putting agreements in place for their workers. It wouldn't be until 1938, however, that the practice was set in law, giving certain workers with fixed wages the right to one week of paid leave per year.



**OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE**  
Holiday-goers in the 1920s enjoy some fun in the sun during a holiday from work at Southend



# Who invented the vending machine?

**GOAL** During the mid-first century AD, philosopher, teacher and inventor Hero of Alexandria created a machine that dispensed holy water when a coin was dropped into a slot. Yet this was only one of Hero's many inventions. Among his other credits are the first mechanised puppet theatre, a wind-powered organ and a steam-powered engine, all a mere 1,700 years before the Industrial Revolution.

DO YOU  
**KNOW?**  
WHAT A HERO

AKG IMAGE 5 X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGE 5 X1, GETTY X4



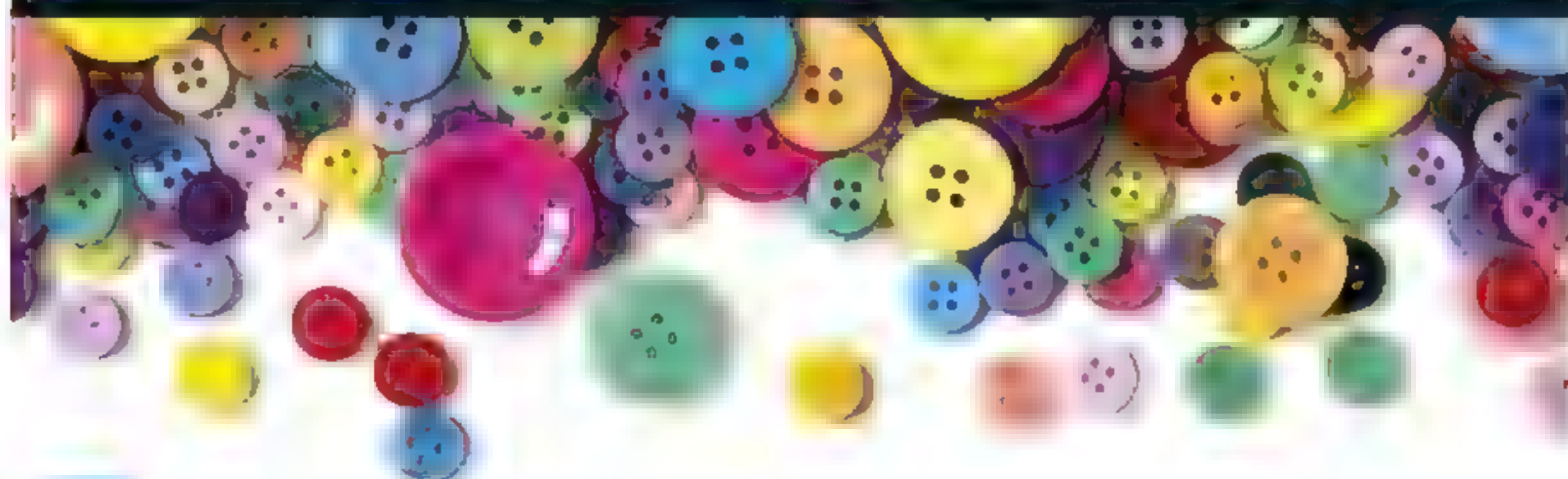
**WHAT A HERO**  
Vending machines date back to Hero of Alexandria, some 2,000 years ago



**ON THE BALL**  
A 12th-century painting, by Su Hanchan, of a game of Cuju

## WHEN WAS THE FIRST GAME OF FOOTBALL?

**GOAL** The 2,000- to 3,000-year-old Chinese 'Cuju' (or 'Ts'u-chu') is the earliest incarnation of the beautiful game, according to FIFA. It involved kicking a ball - animal skins stuffed with hair or feathers - into a net, with no hands allowed. Probably used for military training, it was more sophisticated than the European mob-football popular in medieval times, which involved unlimited numbers of players using pretty much any means necessary to get an inflated pig's bladder to a marker at the end of town.



## HOW OLD IS THE BUTTON?

**GOAL** Today, buttons are used as fastenings on clothes, though the Americans use the word to refer to what the British term 'badges'. In fact, the earliest buttons were more like badges, being used for ornamental purposes. Archaeologists have found ornamental shell or pottery buttons dating to 2500 BC on Indus Valley civilisation sites, while the first Chinese buttons date to 1500 BC.

The earliest-known use of buttons to fasten clothes was by the wild Magyar horsemen who swept into central Europe in the mid-ninth century.

Those suffering the invasions were understandably too busy to notice the fashion innovations of the invaders, but archaeologists have found the button fastenings in graves.

By around 1200, buttons were being used to fasten the clothes of German nobles. The new, more secure fastening method led to a revolution in clothing. Combined with curved seams, developed around 1300, buttons allowed clothing to be cut to fit for the first time. By the year 1400, tailoring had evolved into an art and the modern forms of clothing for men and women were being developed.



# When did people start **smoking** in England?

Having come to European shores from the Americas by 16th-century explorers, tobacco was popularised among the fashionable – notably in snuff form – after being introduced to the French court by the diplomat Jean Nicot (after whom nicotine is named). It is thought it became available in England around 1565, though smoking remained the preserve of sailors (one account tells of a Bristol sailor “emitting smoke from his nostrils” as early as 1556). Keen smokers and adventurers Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh may have helped make the practice more appealing.

Though initially considered medicinal, tobacco has always had its critics. King James I called it a “beastly” custom that was weakening the nation, and in 1621 the poet Ben Jonson bemoaned that it “hath foully perfumed most part of the isle”. By this time, however, the capital was crowded with over 7,000 tobacco-selling establishments. Although many alternatives have been presented ever since, it has not fallen from fashion.



## WHY DID WE BEGIN USING SURNAMES?



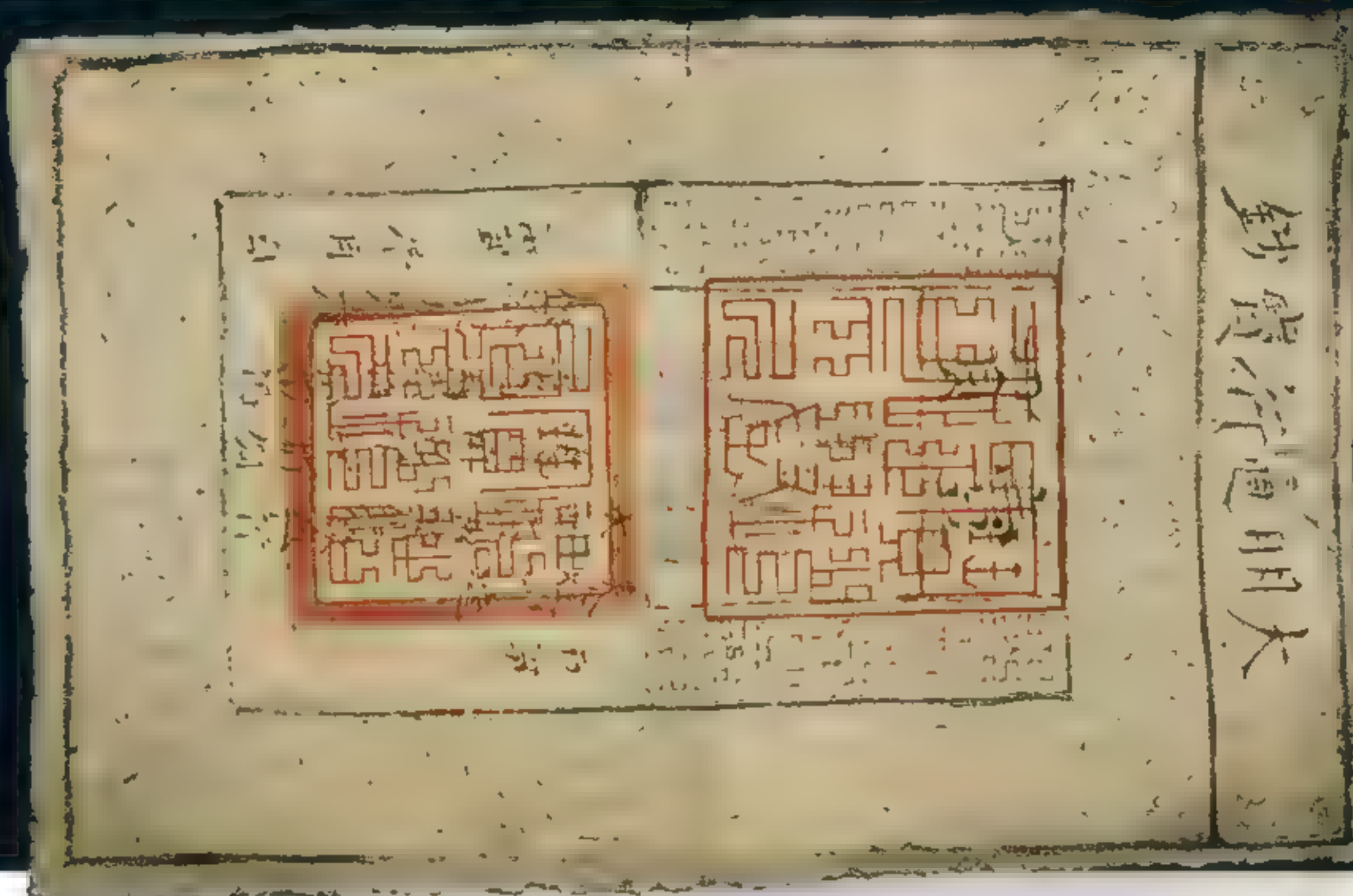
Surnames came into common use around the early Middle Ages so that people could distinguish between persons of the same given name. They were selected by making some reference to either their occupation (Taylor or Smith, for example), personal characteristics (such as Strong or Brown), or location of their residence (like Wood or Marsh). Other, now common, came from a child taking their father's name – including Johnson (the son of John) and MacDonald (son of Donald).

As travel became more common and communities met with more strangers, the practice spread. From around the 1200s, a person's adopted name was passed on to the next generation and so the inherited surname was born. So it is possible our names are likely to tell us something about one of our distant ancestors.

# When was **paper money** first used?

The use of paper notes in place of coinage is first recorded in seventh-century China, during the Tang dynasty, among merchants keen to avoid carrying weighty money for large commercial transactions. By the 12th century, the state was issuing its own official notes.

Europe, however, lagged behind. It wasn't until the 1500s that bankers were exchanging deposits of gold for receipts promising to pay on demand. The first modern-style bank notes of a fixed value were first produced in 1660s Stockholm and gradually adopted in Europe.



**OLD MONEY**  
Bank notes, such as this example from the Ming Dynasty, originated in China.



# When were the first Christmas stamps issued?

**Target** The debate over the first seasonal stamp continues to rage. There was the decidedly un-festive map of the world marked 'Xmas 1898', created by the Canadian postal service, but it could hardly be described as a special Christmas issue. In 1903, meanwhile, Danish postal clerk Einar Holbøll came up with the idea of a charity Christmas 'seal' – though it wasn't technically a stamp, just a nice extra.

It wasn't until 1937 that official greetings stamps were produced in Austria, yet some philatelists don't even count these as they didn't have religious themes, instead depicting a rose and the zodiac. For many purists, Hungary's 1943 stamps showing the Nativity are the winners of the title. Britain got on board relatively late, with its first Christmas-themed postage stamp not printed until 1966. It was the brainchild of the Postmaster General – one Tony Benn.



**STAMP OF APPROVAL**  
Could this 1898 design be the first Christmas stamp?

## HOW OLD IS THE WHEELCHAIR?

**MOVABLE CHAIRS**  
The wicker Bath Chairs rolled in changes in mobility for the sick and infirm



**Target** Wheeled furniture, carts and wheelbarrows have transported the sick, injured, infirm and physically disabled for at least two millennia. The earliest record of a self-propelled chair, however, doesn't appear until the 17th century. Created by German watchmaker Stefan Farfler in 1655, the 'manumotive carriage' was a solid tricycle-like affair motored by a twin-action crank handle at the front. Farfler's carriage represented a great advance in mobility and independence, but it didn't catch on. The first mass appeal wheelchair, the 'Bath Chair' (above), entered production in the late 18th century.

7

The number of floors of Britain's first multi-storey car park, opened in 1901. Instead of ramps, the cars would be moved between the floors by an electric lift.

## WHEN AND WHERE DOES PAPER COME FROM?

**Target** Confusingly, paper got its name from the Egyptian papyrus made from interwoven strips of papyrus reed, a technology dating back 4,500 years. Paper itself was a later Chinese invention that required the pulping of cellulose fibres. Though not possible that people wrote on paper as early as the second century BC, legend states it was invented in AD 105 by a Chinese court official (Tsu) who experimented with pulping whatever material he could find before finding upon a combination of mulberry tree bark, fishing nets and cloth rags.

## WHO INVENTED MODERN DEODORANT?

**Target** The story of modern hygienic products began in the late Victorian era, targeted solely at women. The first armpit deodorant was Mum in 1888, which required the user to spread a paste of bacteria-killing zinc oxide on the skin. By 1903, rival product Everdry joined the field. This thwarted bad smells using aluminium chloride, but it was also the first sweat-blocking antiperspirant. Neither product was commercially successful. The revolution came when a new brand, Odo-ro-no, launched an aggressive advertising campaign to shame customers into fearing what others said about them behind their backs. This paranoia pressure marketing had the desired effect and the industry took off.

## A spray a day stops tell-tale odour!

Use double-action

**ODO·RO·NO**

Use it daily and be sure of yourself

- Stops odour instantly.
- Checks perspiration safely.
- Full 24-hour protection.



In the handy squeeze bottle

3/9

Also Odo-Ro-No Cream, 1/6 and 2/5  
Regular and Instant Liquid, 1/- and 1/11

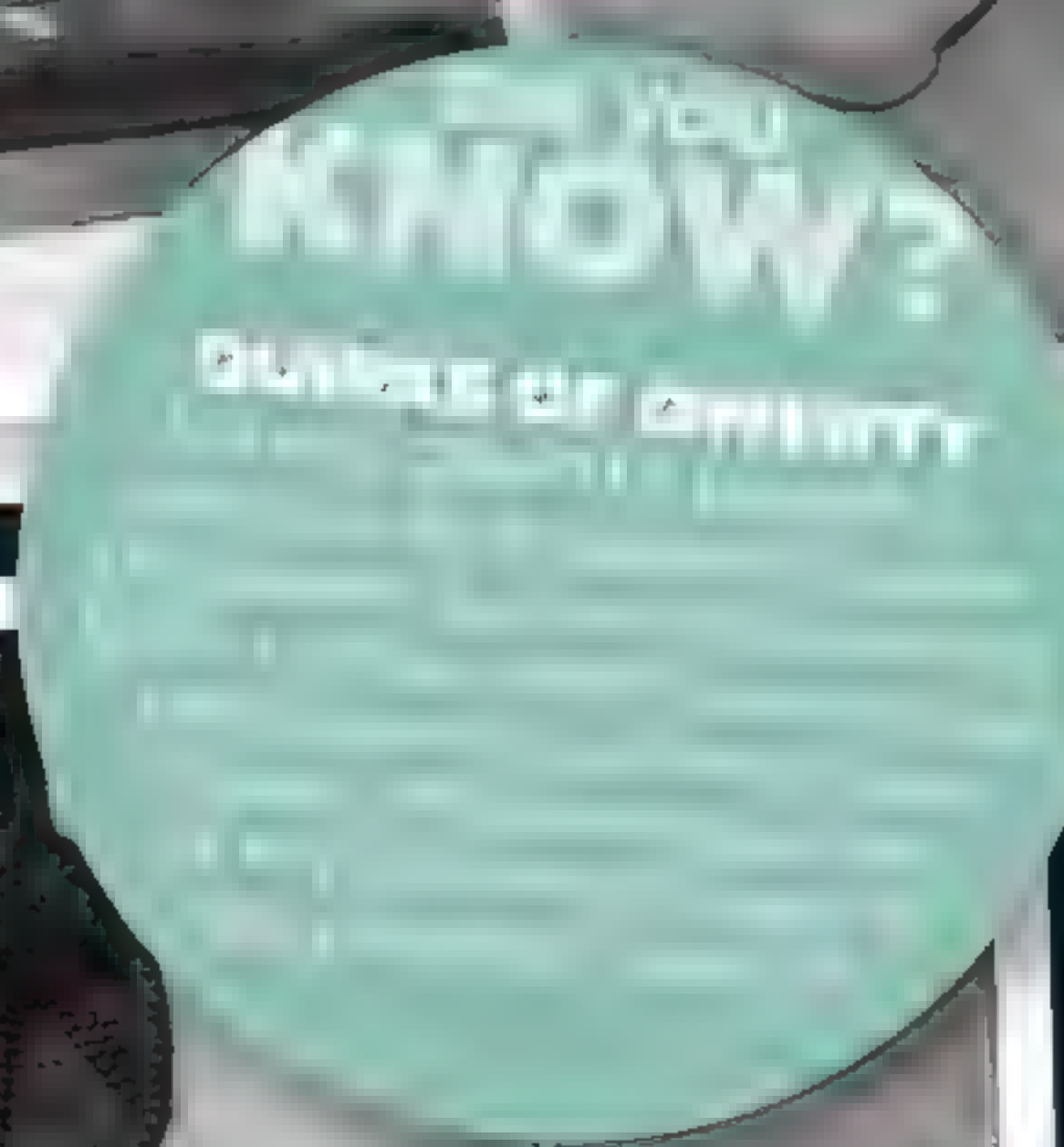


# Where was the **first hole-in-the-wall** cash machine?

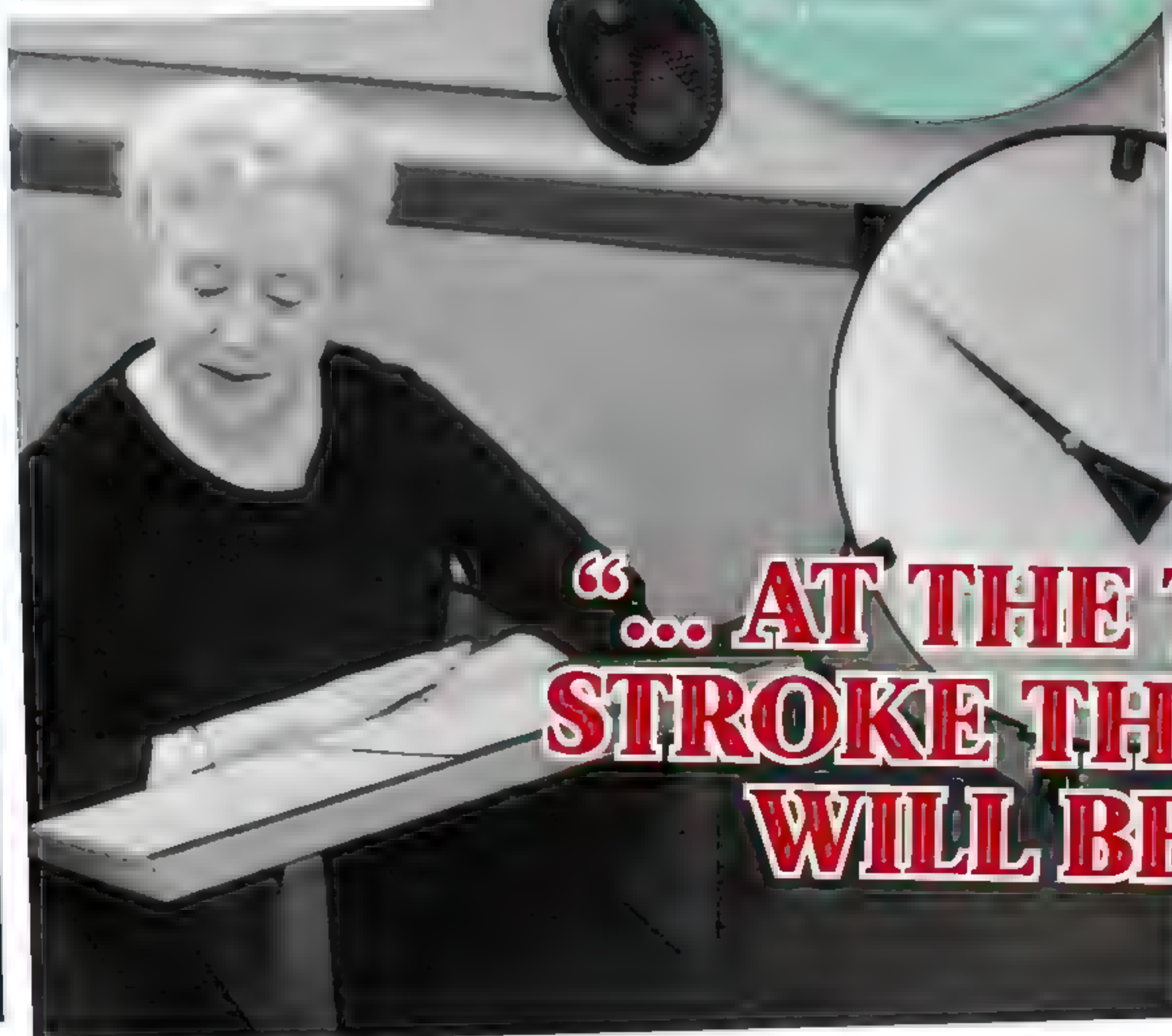
**PETTY CASH**  
Actor Reg Varney uses the cashpoint to withdraw a maximum of £10

**©** Although previous out-of-hours deposit and loan machines had been experimented with across the world, TV actor Reg Varney, of *On the Buses* fame, was the first 'customer' of a bank-linked cash-dispensing machine. After inserting a voucher into a drawer outside a branch of Barclays bank in Enfield, North London, on 27 June 1967, Varney withdrew a crisp £10 note and history was made.

Initially viewed with suspicion, the machines took some time to catch on. A special card was required – used for other purposes, such as providing extra validation for cheques – before morphing into the debit cards of today. There are now nearly three million Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) worldwide.



**TIME KEEPER**  
Pat Simmons won a £500 competition to become the second speaking clock



**“... AT THE THIRD STROKE THE TIME WILL BE...”**

## WHO VOICED **THE ORIGINAL** SPEAKING CLOCK?

**©** With a growing number of people calling operators just wanting to know the time, the Speaking Clock service began in Britain in 1936. It featured the voice of telephonist Ethel Jane Cain, who was chosen following a nationwide search for the 'golden voice'. Cain became famous for her crisp pronunciation of the word 'precisely,' used at the start of each new minute. In 1963, Cain would be succeeded by Pat Simmons, a supervisor in a London telephone exchange. One of the speaking clock machines – there were two, in case of breakdown – is on display at the British Horological Institute in Nottinghamshire, but although originally a working model, its motor failed on 29 October 2005, the very day that Simmons died.



## WHO INVENTED THE LIGHT BULB?

**Target** Not Thomas Edison. German watchmaker Heinrich Goebel had invented the first true light bulb in 1854, when he placed a carbonised bamboo filament inside glass. Then in 1878, English physicist Joseph Swan invented an electric light bulb that burned for over 13 hours. Four years before that, though, Canadian inventors Henry Woodward and Matthew Evans had patented a light bulb, but were unable to make a commercial success of their invention so Edison bought their patent. In 1879, he refined their invention by placing a thin, carbon filament in an oxygenless bulb. The resulting light could burn for 40 hours and so Edison's light bulb, though not the world's first, became the first to be commercially viable.

**LIGHT BULB MOMENT**  
Heinrich Goebel's design inspired Edison's later one



## Where was the first parliament?

A parliament, from the French verb *parler* (to talk), is defined as a body of representatives who assemble to discuss state legislature. Most ancient kingdoms possessed some form of advisory council, but the existence of an assembly of citizens, deliberating matters of state without recourse to a 'divinely appointed' monarch, was rare. The assemblies established in Athens and republican Rome claimed to represent the will of the people, but were made up of a small, wealthy and exclusively male minority. Who actually lays claim to the title of 'earliest parliament' is hotly debated. The contenders are the Norse assemblies of Iceland (the Althing), the Isle of Man (the Tynwald) and Sweden (the *lamtamot*). All three allege that they were established in the 10th century AD, which would make them the longest-running parliamentary institutions in the world.

### THE HOT NEW ALTHING

Could Norse assembly the Althing be the world's longest-running parliament?

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### GAME CHANGED

The game-changer in the history of the world's longest-running parliament is the Norse assembly of Iceland (the Althing), the Isle of Man (the Tynwald) and Sweden (the *lamtamot*). All three allege that they were established in the 10th century AD, which would make them the longest-running parliamentary institutions in the world.

## WHERE WAS THE GUN MADE?

**Target** The game place is the invention of gunpowder – China, where people stumbled across the explosive effects of mixing charcoal, sulphur and saltpetre in the ninth century. Gunpowder was primarily used for fireworks, but in the 10th century, the Chinese invented the *shu kuo* (火药), a spear tipped with a firework that would explode on impact, but flames and small missiles, the forerunner of today's guns. By the 13th century, gunpowder had spread into Europe, probably via the Silk Road trade routes through Central Asia. The first cannon appeared in Italy around 1320, and hand-held guns evolved at the end of the 14th century.

### GUNNING FOR GLORY

A 10th-century Chinese mural depicts the first known depiction of a gunpowder explosion.





## When did **regulations to medicine** start?

**Target** Medicine in the Bronze Age may have been infused with superstition – the gods played a key part, as they did before and since – but professional doctors were expected to maintain high standards of care.

According to one of the world's first codes of law, issued by King Hammurabi of Babylon around 3,800 years ago, doctors would be punished if their treatments caused harm.

Depending on the severity of the malpractice, a surgeon could lose his fingers or hands, be branded, executed or, more commonly, made to pay compensation. Moreover, the laws stipulated a standardised sliding scale of prices for operations – the rich paid more, while the state provided free treatment to the poor.

**SET IN STONE**  
The 282 laws of the Code of Hammurabi affected all areas of life, including medicine



**SHOCKING**  
The electric chair is still used in some cases today



## Who invented the **electric chair**?

**Target** After witnessing a fatal but accidental electrocution in 1881, New York dentist Dr Alfred P Southwick lobbied for electrocution as a humane capital punishment. To that end, he modified a dentist's chair and began experimenting on animals. The electric chair's 1890 debut caused outrage as two shocks were needed to kill murderer William Kemmler, but that did not stop the idea being adopted across many states.

In the course of his work, Southwick sought advice from Thomas Edison, whose electrical company championed Direct Current (DC). Edison secretly arranged for a chair to be built powered by Alternating Current (AC) to scare people into thinking it was more dangerous. Edison, however, lost the 'War of the Currents'.

## WHO WAS THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL ACTRESS?

**Target** Even before Oliver Cromwell banned the theatre during the Commonwealth, playhouses had been an all-male domain. Then, during the Restoration, the theatre came back with an explosion of colour – and the first actresses. It is thought that the first woman to tread the boards was 30-year-old Margaret 'Peg' Hughes, playing Desdemona in Shakespeare's *Othello* on 3 December 1660 at the Vere Street Theatre, a converted London tennis court. Samuel Pepys regarded Peg a "mighty pretty woman" and, as the lover of Prince Rupert, Duke of Cumberland, she enjoyed an extravagant lifestyle. She was painted four times by Sir Peter Lely, in various states of undress. The Duke never married her, however, and after his death Peg

found herself in reduced circumstances. She died in 1719, having sold her house and jewellery.

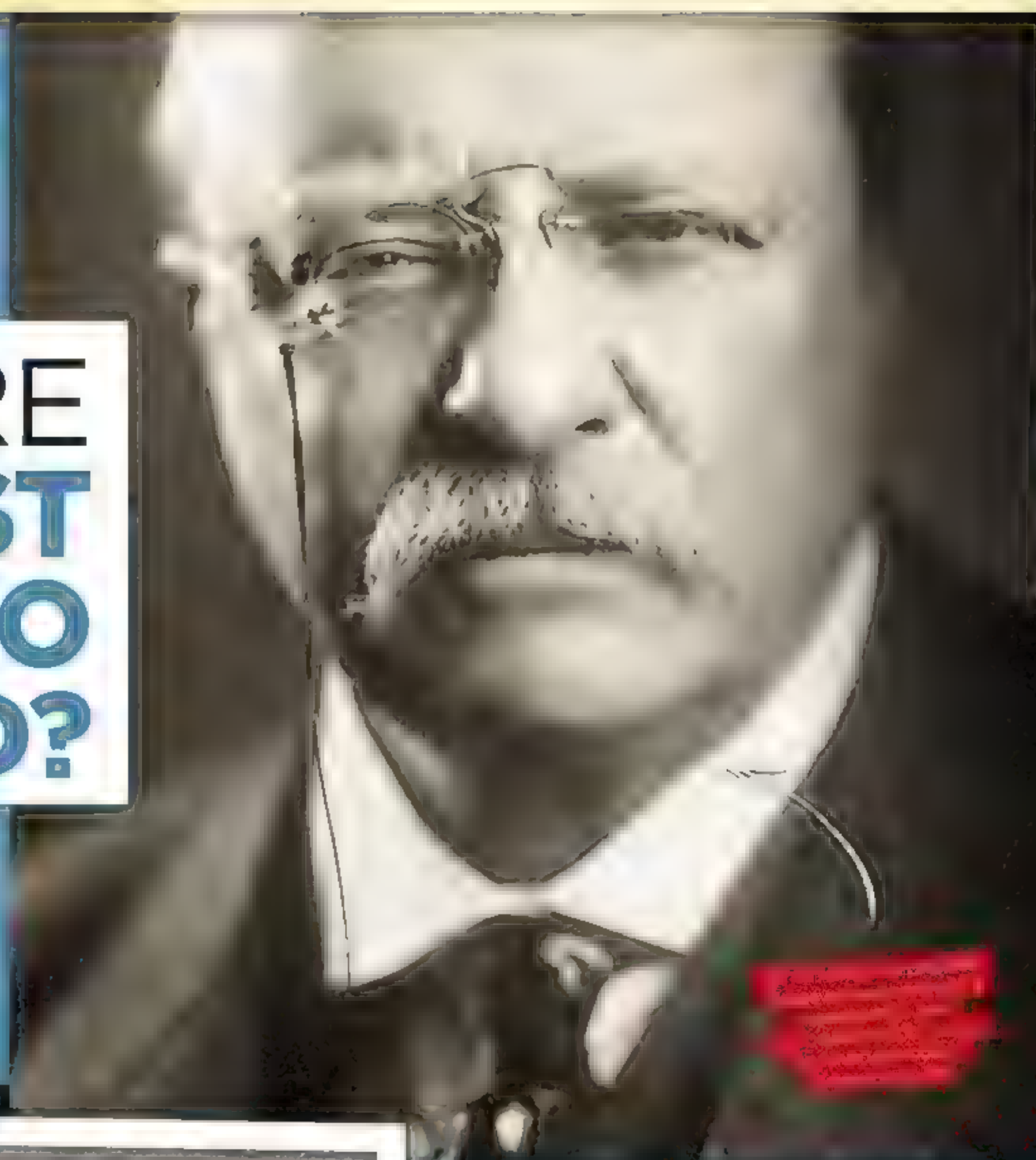
**LIVELY LADY**  
Margaret Hughes lived a life scandalous enough to rival today's celebrities





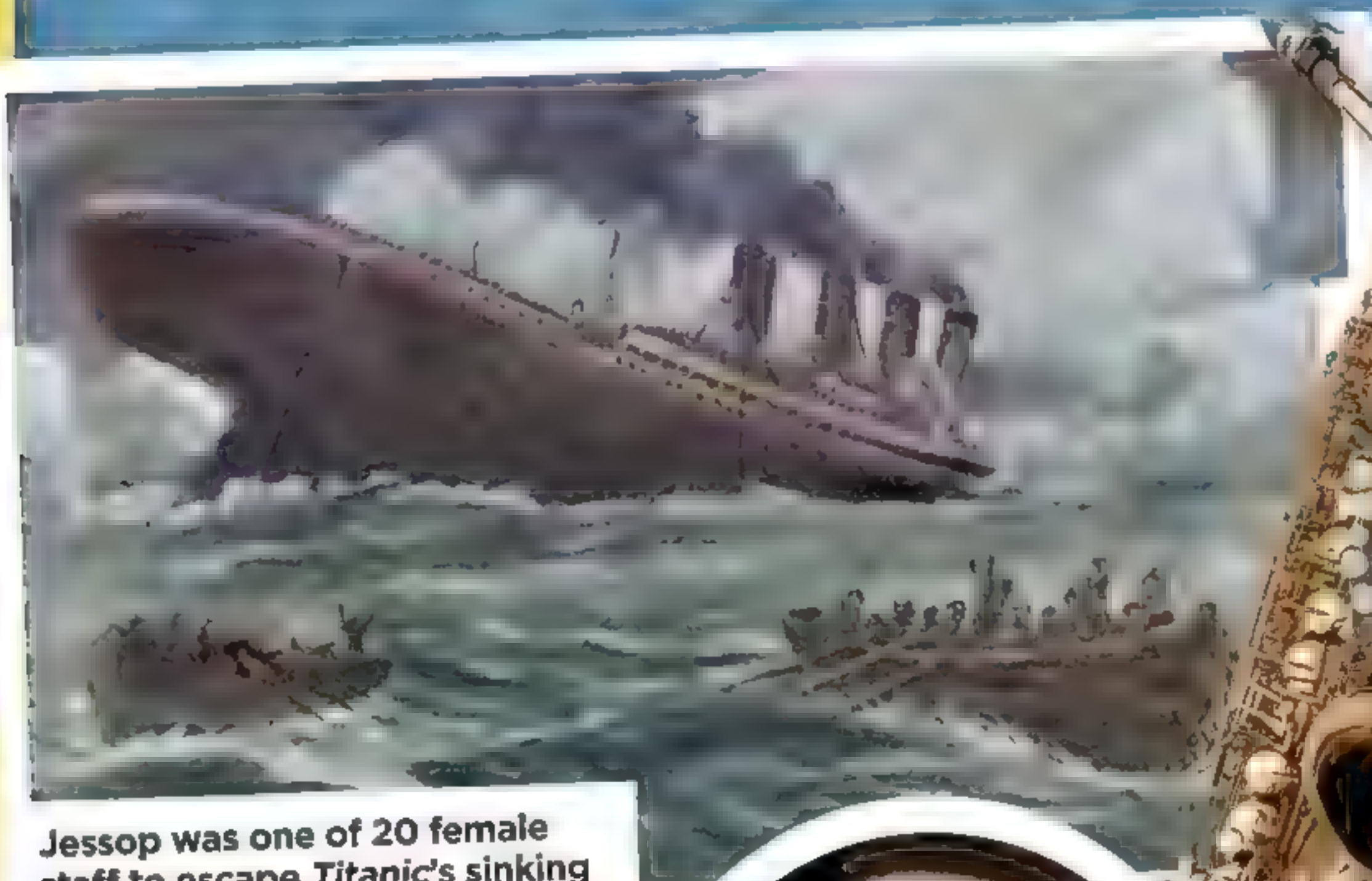
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# WHO ARE THE LUCKIEST PEOPLE TO HAVE LIVED?



## ADOLPHE SAX

Children can be notoriously accident-prone, but few more so than future woodwind inventor Adolphe Sax. He fell three floors of steps, drank a bowl of sulphuric acid, nearly drowned, suffocated and survived poisoning – and all before adolescence. His mother even claimed, “He’s condemned to misfortune, he won’t live” but he proved his worrying parents wrong, and went on to invent one of the most iconic musical instruments of the 20th century.



Jessop was one of 20 female staff to escape Titanic's sinking

## VIOLET JESSOP



## TSUTOMU YAMAGUCHI

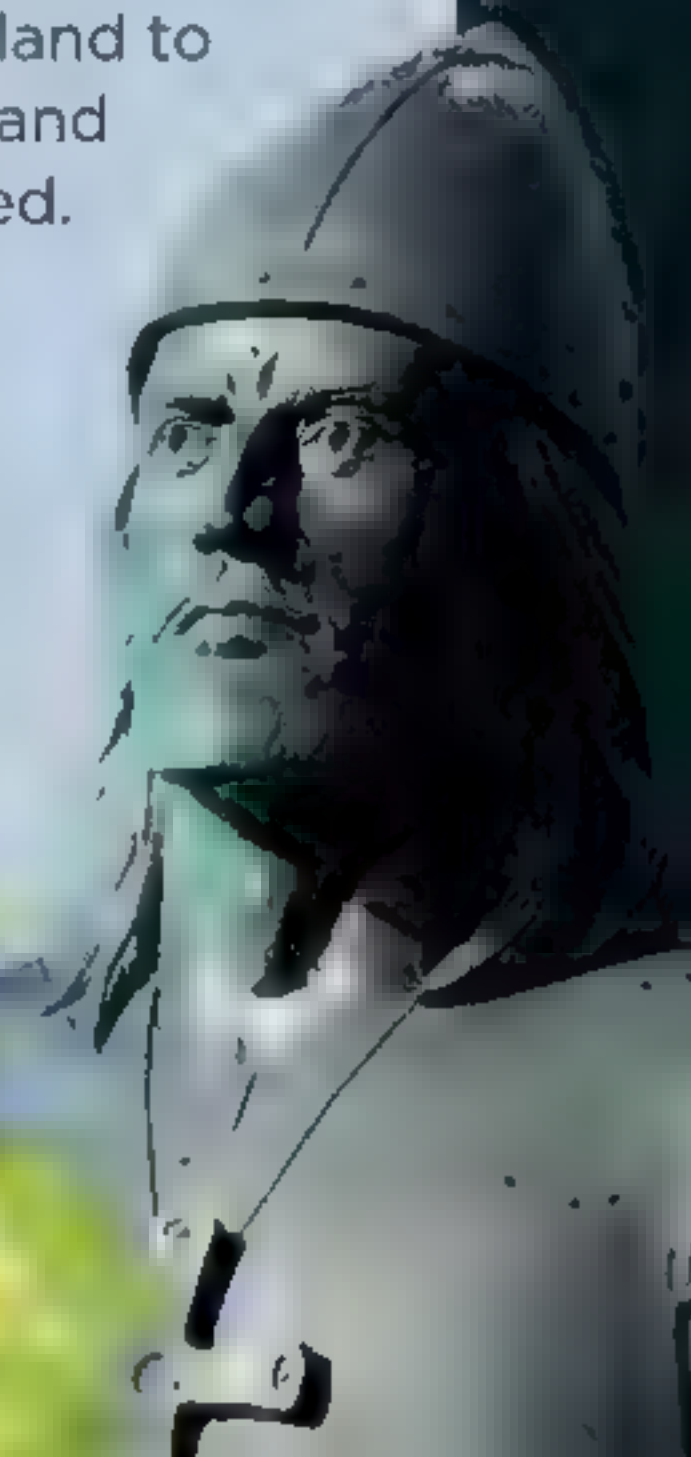
Tsutomu Yamaguchi happened to be in Hiroshima on business when it was hit by the first atomic bomb. He survived, despite being within two miles of ground zero. Glad to be alive, he returned home – to Nagasaki. While describing the incident to his boss, the second bomb fell, again, less than two miles away. Living to tell the tale, he became a vehement activist for nuclear disarmament, and reached the ripe old age of 93.



Hiroshima and Nagasaki were obliterated by the blasts, but Yamaguchi survived both

## LEIF THE LUCKY

Centuries before Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, Viking explorer Leif Erikson (aptly named ‘the lucky’) set eyes on it. His mission was to bring Christianity to Greenland, but after his ship was blown off course, he noticed land to the west. Winter had been harsh, and supplies aboard ship were depleted. Leif sent two scouts ashore, who came back in three days with grapes, wheat and firewood. Leif settled here for the season, living off the bountiful resources, and sailed on to Greenland with fresh produce and stories of the new (albeit accidentally found) land.







This was the revolver used by John F. Schrank, the would-be presidential assassin

## TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Presidents shouldn't take assassination attempts lightly, but Teddy Roosevelt easily shrugged one off. On his way to speak in Wisconsin, the US president was shot in the chest. Thankfully, his steel glasses case and the 50-page speech in his pocket slowed the bullet so that it didn't pierce his lung. He quipped, "It takes more than that to kill a bull moose", before reciting the speech in full.



Vulović spent months in a coma, but made a full recovery

## VESNA VULOVIĆ

A young Serbian air stewardess, who came in to work on the wrong day, found herself plummeting more than 33,000 feet after an explosion destroyed her plane.

The only person ever to survive a fall from a commercial airplane, Vulović was found within the plane's protective fuselage as it fell.

## TIMOTHY DEXTER

Contemporaries of this 18th-century Massachusetts eccentric would laugh at his seemingly ill-planned ideas. Until they paid off, Dexter's first misadventure was buying a load of depreciated currency, just before the government reinstated it – making Dexter a very rich man. His neighbours, resentful and jealous, gave him bad business advice in the hopes it would cripple him, but they only served to add to his fortune. He sold mittens in the Caribbean – only to make a profit when traders heading to Siberia bought them – and he literally sent coals

to Newcastle, where the stocks arrived just as a strike had driven up demand.



## HARRISON FORD

Harrison Ford has had Lady Luck on his side throughout his career. As a young man, he started working in Hollywood as a carpenter, after a string of unsuccessful auditions. Having worked on the homes of George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola, he was asked to audition for roles that helped launch his career, such as *American Graffiti*. In 2014, while working on the set of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the hefty door of the Millennium Falcon fell on top of him. A court ruled that Ford could have died in the incident, were it not for an emergency stop

The Hollywood star has got used to action, both on and off the screen



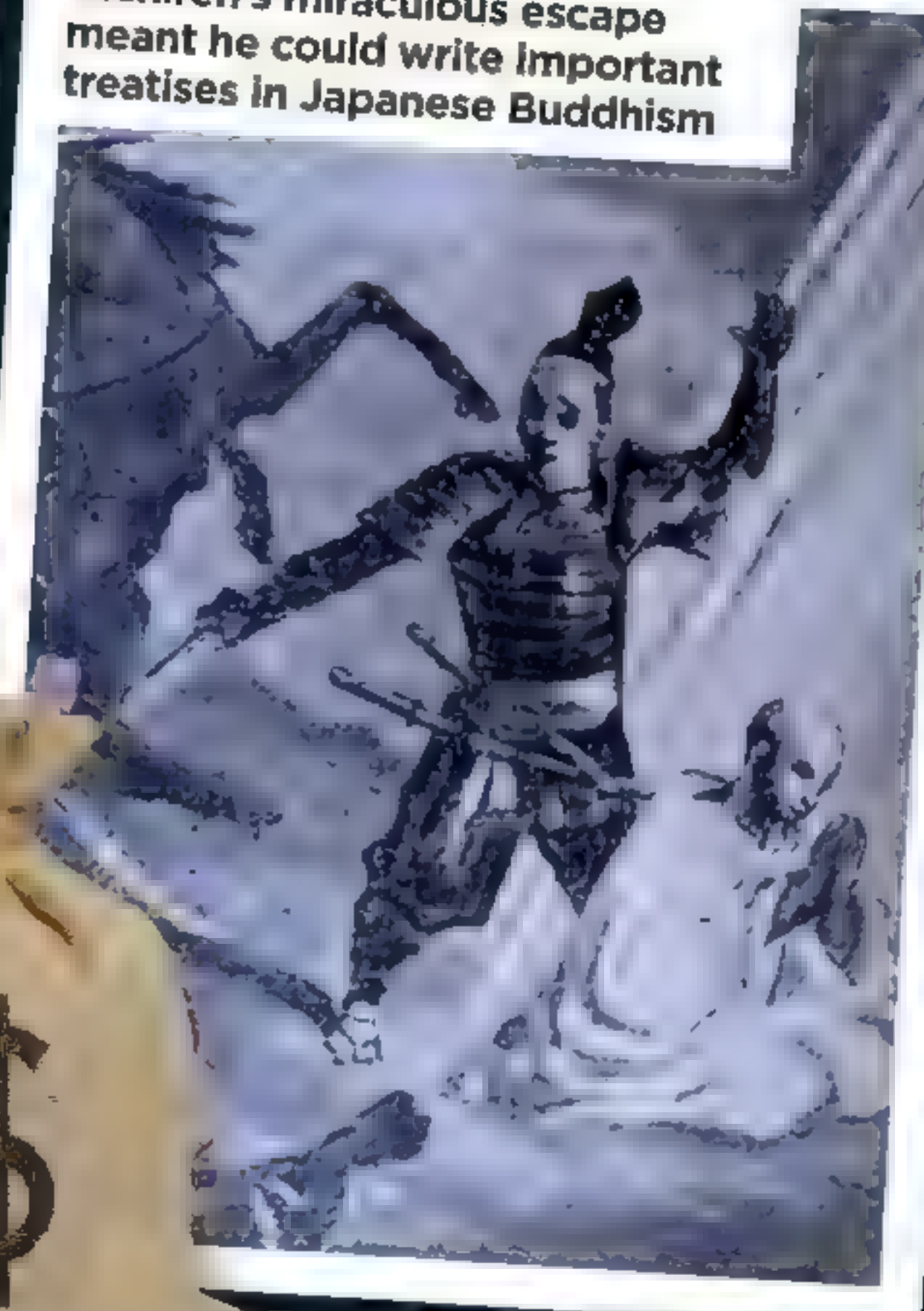
button that was pressed just in time. Finally, in 2015, he escaped death again when the vintage plane he was piloting crashed into a tree.

## ROY SULLIVAN

Getting struck by lightning is an unlikely experience, other than for US park ranger Roy Sullivan. Nicknamed the 'spark ranger', he was hit seven times. His first strike came in 1942, while trying to escape a building caught in the eye of the storm. Three decades later, his car was hit. Next time he was driving in a storm, he tried to outrun the lightning, but got out of the car too early and a bolt knocked him off his feet. He would be hit again when on duty, fishing, tending his garden and after retirement. Even his wife was struck by lightning! Still, Sullivan was never seriously injured.



Nichiren's miraculous escape meant he could write important treatises in Japanese Buddhism



## NICHIREN

The 13th-century Japanese priest is best known for founding his own branch of Buddhism, but his life may have been cut short were it not for a well-timed lunar phenomenon. Having annoyed the government, he was sentenced to death. With his head on the chopping block, though, a strange light flashed across the sky. It blinded his executioner, allowing Nichiren to escape. He lived not just another day, but another 11 years.



# FASHION & STYLE



## FLOWER POWER

RIGHT: Elvis wears a shirt by designer (and populariser) Alfred Shaheen in the film *Blue Hawaii* ABOVE: Workers hand-print Shaheen's designs onto swimsuit fabric



## WHERE DID THE HAWAIIAN SHIRT DESIGN COME FROM?

European missionaries arriving in Hawaii in the 19th century were shocked at the 'nakedness' of the locals. They forced the islanders to wear western-style cotton clothing rather than their traditional bark-cloth loincloths decorated with charcoal and berry juices.

Then when Japanese and Chinese migrants came to work on the sugar and pineapple plantations, they realised there was more

money in garments. Alongside locals who had learned to use newfangled sewing machines, they started to make western-style clothes and eastern-style kimonos.

In 1889, the first Hawaiian 'shirt maker', A M Mellis, placed an ad for his made-to-measure shop at 17 Emma St, Honolulu. The modern design incorporated European tailoring, far-eastern and Hawaiian imagery, cowboy practicality and Polynesian colour.

The look was formalised in the 1930s, when Ellery Chun created his 'Aloha' shirt to combat falling sales during the Depression, and popularity exploded after World War II. Americans stationed in the South Pacific, such as future designer Alfred Shaheen, brought home soft, bright-coloured, rayon souvenirs. The teenage revolution of the 1950s cemented the style, followed by the 1960s surf boom, 80s cop shows and 90s cocktail craze.



# 12,000

The number of marine molluscs required to make 1.5 grams of purple dye in the ancient era.



## What signals were used in fan language?

🎯 The fan had grown into a staple of the fashionable lady's wardrobe since the Elizabethan period until, by the 18th century, users were devising playful ways of using them for silent communication (most importantly, for flirting).

It's impossible to know how many men and women genuinely attempted to master the 'language of the fan', especially as many systems were developed. A 1740 edition of the *Gentleman's Magazine* explained how various motions of the fan represented letters of the alphabet, while other methods – including one publicised by a French fan-maker – assigned messages to particular gestures. Touching the tip of the fan with a finger meant 'I wish to speak to you', twirling the fan with the left hand stood for 'we are watched' and drawing it across the cheek was the way to say 'I love you'. Whatever the case, by the Georgian era the idea women were 'armed with fans as men with swords' was already cause for amusement.

## WAS THE LEOTARD NAMED AFTER ANYONE?

🎯 The audience of Paris' Cirque Napoléon left on 12 November 1859 stunned. They had just witnessed Frenchman Jules Léotard perform never-seen-before aerial acrobats using bars suspended by ropes – the birth of the trapeze – while wearing a risqué skin-tight garment. Named after him, his knitted 'leotard' was aerodynamic, wouldn't get caught in the ropes and showed off his muscular figure. This, it was claimed, proved a hit with the ladies in the crowd.



**A CLOSE SHAVE**  
Sailors can be ordered to shave off their beards if deemed unrespectable

## WHY ARE BEARDS TRADITIONAL FOR MEN IN THE NAVY?

🎯 Beards may be a traditional sight among British sailors, but they were actually the exception during the Age of Sail. The current regulations were developed in Victorian times and, perhaps surprisingly, the Queen herself took a personal interest in the matter.

At first – under Queen's Regulations, 1861 – officers, petty officers and seamen of the Fleet had been forbidden to wear either beards or moustaches, but this was changed with the 1869 Admiralty Circular Letter No 36, which permitted 'a full set' (both moustache and beard, required to meet). Victoria was unamused, as she preferred beards without moustaches, but was willing to accept them together.

The Royal Navy is still the only British armed force that allows beards (with the exception of one army rank, the Pioneer Sergeant).

Each sailor must apply for "permission to stop shaving". After a few weeks, the Master at Arms then decides, at his own discretion, if the sailor has enough facial hair for 'a full set', and if the beard is scrappy or looks daft in any way he orders it to be shaved off. Designer stubble, 'hipster' beards and any style that takes "an excessive amount of time to grow" is generally off limits. While on land, Royal Marines are considered a branch of the army when it comes to facial hair so they must remain smooth-chinned, though a moustache is acceptable.



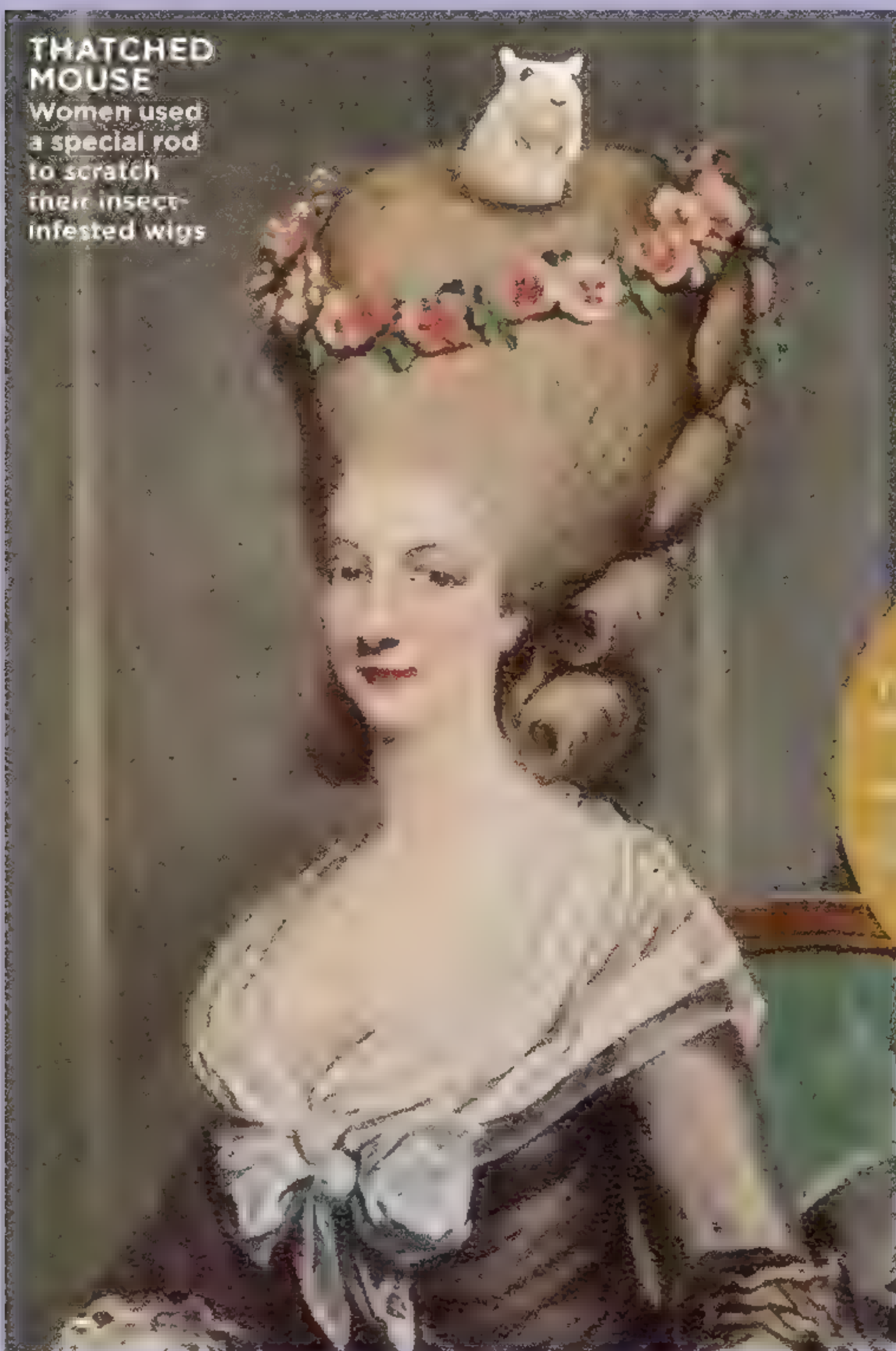
# Did Rococo wigs really have mice?

**Target** Lush, powdered wigs had been popular since the end of the 1600s, but only for men. It wouldn't be until about 1770 when the (slightly more) natural 'pompadour' hairstyle – named for French King Louis XV's chief mistress – gave way to the giant wigs now associated with the Rococo movement.

They were made from mostly human hair, but bulked out with horse hair pads and wire frames. Pomades and powders (including flour) kept even the most fanciful creations solid until the next re-style, which came about often.

Ladies of the French court vied with each other for novelty, but cartoonists and satirists enjoyed the fashion so much that it's hard to know just how far the more outrageous styles went. The famous 'ship in the hair' prints may well have been a real design. What is known is that the wigs were never very hygienic, as all kinds of insect-based wildlife shared headspace with the wearer. It's unlikely, though, that a mouse would have stayed unnoticed while being worn. But a wig being stored, or flung in the corner of a dressing room, might well have made a cosy nest for a family of mice, complete with powder and fatty pomades as a handy snack.

**THATCHED MOUSE**  
Women used a special rod to scratch their insect-infested wigs



GETTY X4

**RICH SEAMS**

An early (c1875) ad for Levi Strauss jeans is aimed at miners

**the miner**  
farmer, mechanic and cattle raiser  
all over the west  
prefer

cut full –  
honestly made –

**Levi Strauss & Co's.**  
copper riveted **Overalls**  
the most persistently advertised – the  
best selling brand. it will pay you to handle them

## WHEN DID WE START WEARING JEANS?

**DO YOU KNOW?**  
WHAT A DILEMMA

**Target** They're among the world's bestselling items of clothing, sold at budget and designer prices. Denim jeans, though, were devised not in the name of fashion but to withstand tough working conditions.

Miners in Nevada complained that their garments easily tore so in 1871, tailor Jacob Davis developed hardy trousers made from heavy 'duck cloth' canvas or blue denim, with strengthened metal fastenings. He secured a patent in

May 1873 with the backing of businessman Levi Strauss, and the business quickly took off.

By the 1890s, 'waist overalls' made from the more flexible denim were favoured. Jeans moved beyond the working classes, and in the 1930s became part of the casual wear of young Americans. Since then, they continued to grow into the mainstream. And the name? 'Jeans' is possibly a corruption of Gênes, the French word for Genoa, where the fabric was first made.



**WATERING BOWL?**  
Despite the classic image, the hat wasn't waterproof



## Why do we call a cowboy's headgear a ten-gallon hat?

**Target** The pop-culture cowboy is often depicted in film or art giving his horse a drink of water from his hat. This curious idea seems to have derived from the misconception that the famous, wide-brimmed, high-standing felt headgear favoured by the cattlemen of the Wild West was called a 'ten-gallon hat' because of the amount of liquid it could hold.

Yet anyone trying to fill such a hat with water, whose cubic capacity would only have amounted to a few pints in any case, would swiftly have realised the utter futility of the task as they were neither waterproof

nor capable of withstanding a great amount of tensile stress. There are many suggestions as to how the hat acquired such a distinctive name, the most plausible of which is that it came from the Spanish phrase *tan galán*, which loosely translates as 'very handsome'.

# 252

The number of shoes that Surrey shoemaker William Mullins brought with him on the Mayflower's voyage to North America in 1620. He also packed 13 pairs of boots.

## How did the wearing of earrings begin?

**Target** As a display of wealth and status, cosmetic adornment or a cultural rite of passage, ear piercings are among the oldest forms of body modification. Evidence can be found in cultures across the world. Ear piercings are seen in the art of Persia, found in the tombs of ancient China and Egypt (Howard Carter reported that Tutankhamun had perforated earlobes), and are mentioned in the Old Testament. Perhaps our oldest evidence is the mummy of Ötzi the Iceman, dating back to c3300 BC and discovered in 1991. His stretched earlobes indicate that ear jewellery may go back at least 5,000 years. Find out more about Ötzi's fashion sense overleaf.



## HOW OLD IS THE PERM?

**Target** With the help (and boundless patience) of his wife, the German hairdresser Karl Nessler spent six hours on 8 October 1906 demonstrating his masterpiece, the permanent wave. In order to create the waves of the perm, a dozen brass rollers, weighing over 10kg combined, heated to 100 degrees were needed. An intricate system of weights and pulleys prevented the piping-hot metal from touching his wife Katharina's skin, but it was still a risky procedure. In the first attempts, her hair was burned off.



### NESTLE WAVE.

Nessler's inspired Permanent Wave Machine... the result is a new and beautiful character... the result is a new and beautiful character... the result is a new and beautiful character...

Nessler's permanently waved hair becomes curly in damp and hot weather... whereas other waved hair gets straight!

Mr Nessler has an extra special kind of hair... the result is a new and beautiful character... the result is a new and beautiful character...

For 25 50.

Also adapted for Home Use. A Perfect Family Wave.

At 100 wind up, your hair will not be so wavy...



4.8

The amount, in millions of dollars, that one of Marilyn's Monroe's dresses – worn when she sang *Happy Birthday* to President Kennedy in 1962 – sold for in 2016



## HOW OLD IS THE BRA?

🎯 In 2008, archaeologists investigating a rubbish pit in Lengberg Castle, Austria, discovered a cache of clothing, including underpants and four very modern-looking 'bras', complete with 'bags' – what we would call 'cups'. Carbon dating shows the bras were worn sometime between 1440 and 1485.

Bikini-like breast-bands are known to have been around in the ancient world, but in 1889, a German woman, Christine Hardt, received a patent for a modern bra. Not that this caught on – in 1914, socialite Mary Phelps Jacob famously patented an invention she'd created from some handkerchiefs and a piece of pink ribbon one night before going out. It was her 'backless brassiere' that became the basis for the bras of today.

## WHO INVENTED TROUSERS?

🎯 To Romans and Greeks, trousers were the ultimate symbol of the horse-riding barbarian, while civilised men preferred the bare-legged tunic or skirt. The Romans, in particular, were deeply suspicious of trousers – until, that is, their soldiers marched into significantly colder northern Europe and

realised that warmer breeches could prove useful.

One of the earliest examples of a trouser-like garment was found on the body of Ötzi – the 5,000-year-old man preserved in Alpine ice. He is wearing leather leggings supported by suspenders tied to a belt.

## How much did Elizabeth I spend on her dresses?

🎯 It's nearly impossible to translate the amounts spent on Elizabethan clothing into modern money. Fabrics were prohibitively expensive and, in many cases, prohibited full-stop – there were strict rules dictating which fabrics, and even colours, could be worn by whom.

What makes it harder is that Elizabeth often didn't spend anything at all, as her subjects would present her with gloves, sleeves, ruffs, jewels and bolts of costly fabric. Especially at New Year, her courtiers would vie for attention with heavily codified gifts. One year, after receiving silk stockings, Elizabeth upped the ante, declaring that she liked them so much she'd never again wear cloth stockings.

An inventory of Elizabeth's royal wardrobe from 1600 lists some 2,000 gowns, featuring imported silks, furs and damasks, decorated with precious jewels and gold and silver thread.



**DRESSED TO BILL**  
It was common for Elizabeth to pay her ladies-in-waiting with her wardrobe rather than her wallet

## WHO FIRST WORE ICE SKATES?

🎯 The Yorkshire Museum, York, boasts a lovely array of ice skates made by the Vikings, which they carved from smoothed animal bones. It might be expected that these would be the oldest ever found but, in fact, archaeologists have discovered skates dating back to the late Stone Age, some 5,000 years ago. It's believed that the prehistoric Finns – who lived near many narrow lakes – took the first steps onto the frozen ice while wearing bone skates, strapped to their feet with leather thongs.





# Why did **ELVIS** wear jumpsuits?

**🎯** During his stint in the army between 1958 and 1960, Elvis Presley became a devotee of martial arts, especially karate. Those stage kicks came from a genuine black-belt. Trouble was, his shirt kept coming untucked. Worse, with stadium lighting in its infancy, those in the cheap seats had trouble seeing the King in his trademark black. Oh, and he was convinced he had a 'long neck', which he tried to hide.

In the late 1960s, Elvis charged costume designer Bill Belew to create something that would accommodate his act, his fans at the back and that imaginary ugly neck. Made from wool gabardine (no lycra in those days), at first the mainly white jumpsuits were relatively plain, with a high collar (inspired by outfits worn by Napoleon), slim waist and stiff bell-bottoms to give them shape from a distance when he kicked.

As Presley's girth billowed, Belew added sequins and capes to distract the eye from the King's midriff. Fans know them by name: the 'Aloha', 'Peacock', 'Tiger', 'American Eagle' and scores of others. They cost a fortune back in the day and have kept their value. In 2014, Sotheby's sold the sweat-stained Peacock for \$245,000, even though it had a broken zip...

**JEWELS IN THE CROWN**  
The King's signature style was a sequin-spattered onesie

**145**

The number of tailored loincloth underpants found in the tomb of Tutankhamun.



# DO NATIVE AMERICAN MEN NOT GROW BEARDS?



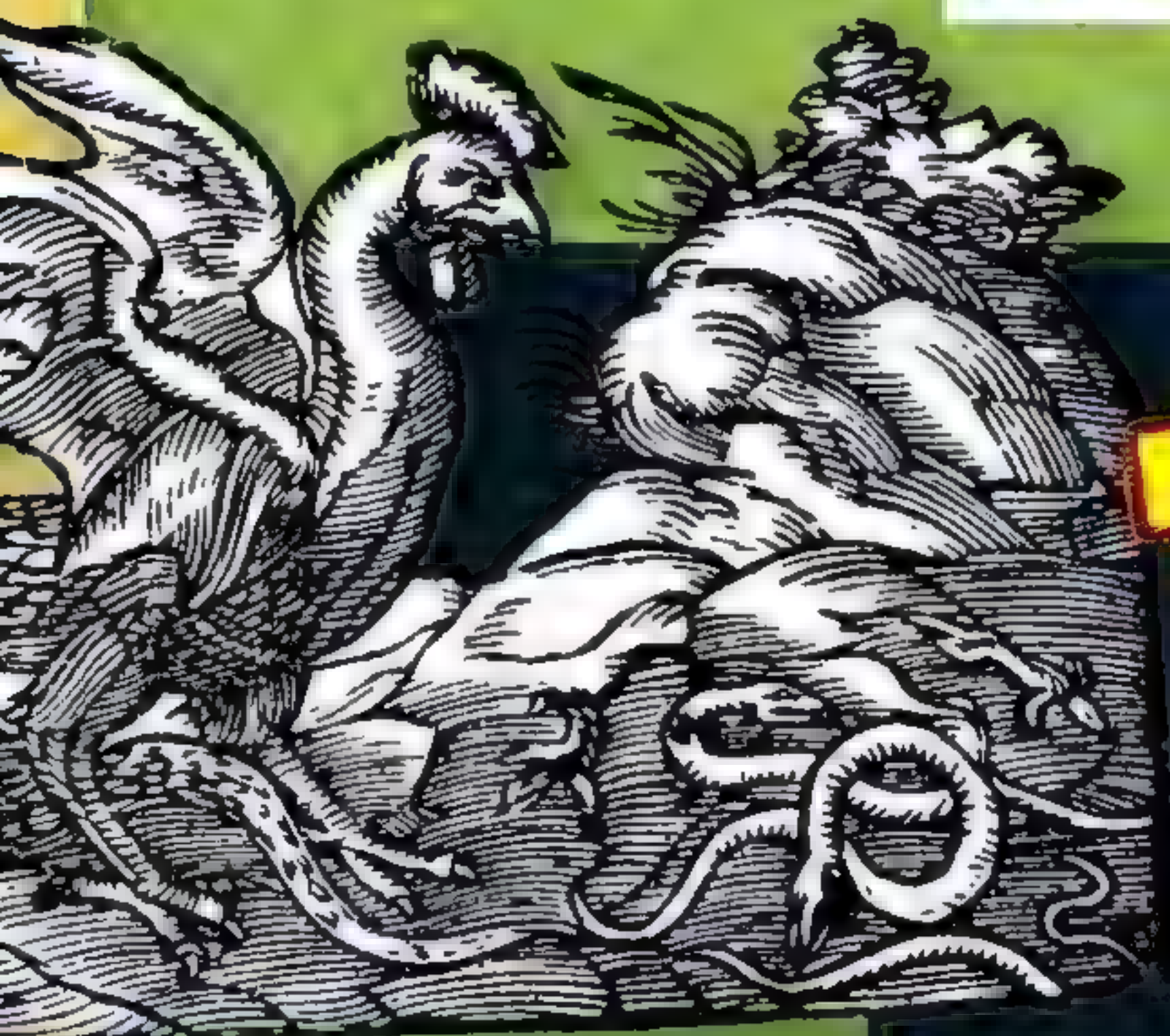
**🎯** US federal law recognises 556 Native American tribes, each with its own traditions, so it's impossible to generalise about such diverse groups. Though genetic research suggests that the Stone Age ancestors of these peoples were Asian, so might naturally have thinner hair follicles than (for example) European men. Native Americans can – and did – grow beards, whiskers and moustaches. Historically, those choosing hairlessness employed various depilating techniques: wooden tweezers, mussel-shell pluckers, razors made from clamshells, and charcoal (to singe hairs).

**WITHOUT WHISKERS**  
Native Americans in Wyoming in the early 20th century





## ARE THERE ANY CASES OF ANIMALS BEING TRIED FOR A CRIME?



**GUILTY**

### FALLING FOWL OF THE LAW

**ACQUITTED**

### IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO

**CRIME:** A donkey is caught fornicating with a man  
**SENTENCE:** The man, Jacques Ferron, was burned alive

When Frenchman Jacques Ferron was caught copulating with a female donkey in Vanves, France, in 1750, the subsequent trial drew much attention. The parish priest was one of many character witnesses for the popular she-ass, calling her "a most honest creature." The court judged that the donkey "had not participated in her master's crime of her own free will", but Ferron was not so lucky. He was burned to death.

Hog in the dock: a pig is tried and sentenced to death for murder



**UNKNOWN**

### BUGGING OUT

**CRIME:** Weevils damage a vineyard  
**SENTENCE:** Unknown

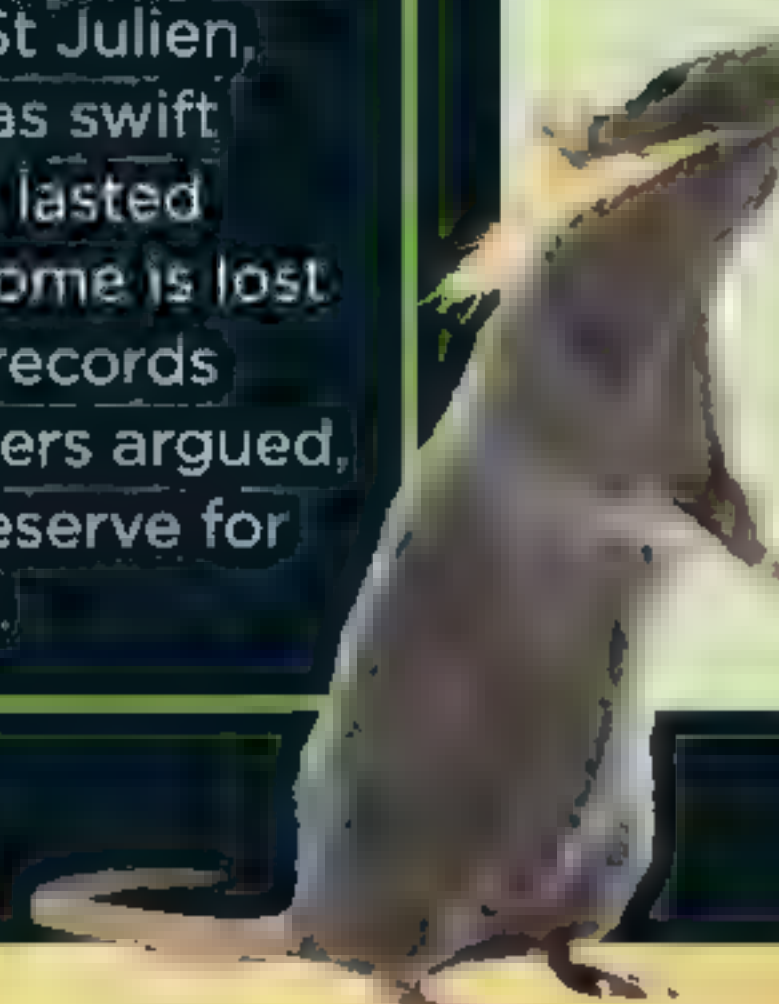
Damaging any church property was a very serious crime in the early modern era, which put animals at the risk of the wrath of the authorities. When weevils ruined a crop of holy grapes in St Julien, France, in 1587, action was swift and thorough - the trial lasted eight months. The outcome is lost to history, but surviving records state that, while the lawyers argued, the impatient locals created a reserve for the critters away from the vineyard.

**TRIAL ADJOURNED**

### THE RAT TRAP

**CRIME:** Rats destroy a barley crop  
**SENTENCE:** Rats went free

In 16th-century France, lawyer Bartholomew Chassenee developed a reputation as a deft defender of animal rights, after representing a colony of rats in 1510. The rodents had been summoned to trial after destroying a field of barley. When they didn't show, Chassenee argued his clients couldn't possibly attend court, as to do so would put them in danger from local cats and dogs. Such risk of death would allow humans to skip court, so why not animals? The befuddled judge postponed the trial indefinitely.





## WHAT A SWINE

**CRIME:** A pig kills a child **SENTENCE:** Hanged

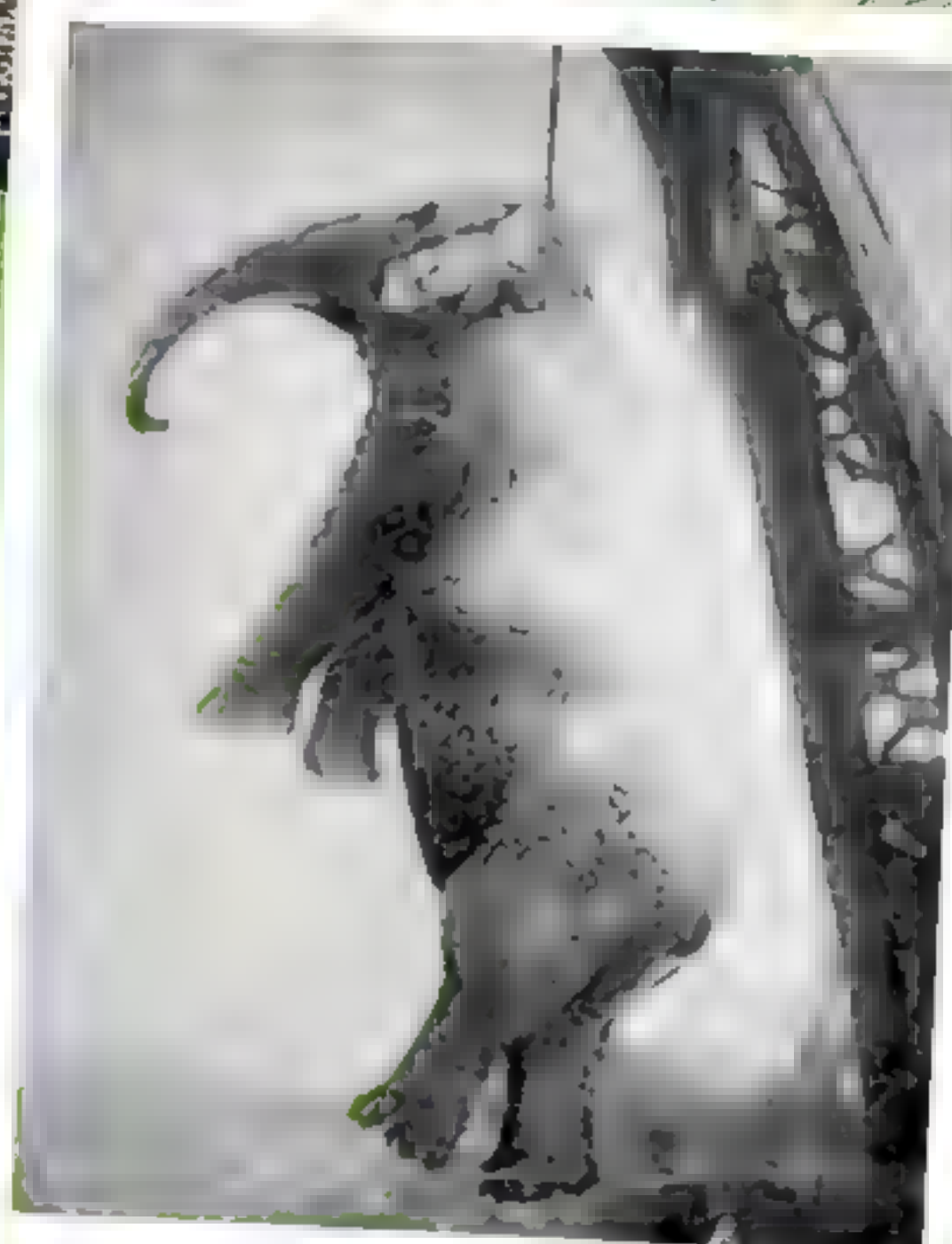
**GUILTY**

Of all the animals brought before the court throughout the ages, none appears so often as the pig. In one such example, from 1494, a hog was arrested near Clermont in France for having "strangled and defaced a child in its cradle". Multiple witnesses claimed the porker let itself into the house and "disfigured and ate the face and neck of the said child". The judge found the swine guilty and sentenced it to hang.



**GUILTY**

## TRUNK FULL OF WOE



The chain broke on the first hanging attempt, causing Mary severe pain

**GUILTY**

## DON'T HAVE A COW

**CRIME:** A cow pushes a woman over  
**SENTENCE:** Death

When, in 1621, a woman from Saxony, Germany, died from injuries caused by a cow pushing her over, the bovine was pulled before the Law faculty of the University of Leipzig. It didn't take long for her sentence of death. The executioners were instructed to kill and bury the animal "unflayed" - the condemned cow's flesh was not to be eaten, nor leather to be made from her hide.



**UNKNOWN**

## MAKING A MOUNTAIN

**CRIME:** Moles cause crop damage  
**SENTENCE:** Perpetual banishment

For the crime of causing crop damage in Stelvio (modern-day Italy), a company of moles was banished in 1519. After objection from the defendants' lawyer, the paternal judge mitigated his sentence, adding a clause that those subterranean mammals "with young and to such as are yet in their infancy" should be given 14 days' respite before being told to get out of town.

## MONKEY BUSINESS

**CRIME:** A primate acts as a French spy, supposedly  
**SENTENCE:** Hanged

**GUILTY**

During the Napoleonic Wars (1792-1815), anything French was treated with suspicion in Britain. So after a French ship wrecked off the coast of Hartlepool, and the sole survivor made it into town, the locals were concerned he was a spy. Even though he was a monkey. According to local legend, the townsfolk held an impromptu trial, found the primate guilty and hanged him. Though the story may be apocryphal, Hartlepudlians are still known today as the 'Monkey Hangers'.



## TASTE FOR HONEY

**CRIME:** A bear steals honey  
**SENTENCE:** The state had to pay a £1,750 fine

Just eight years ago, in 2008, a court in Macedonia heard how a bear attacked a beekeeper's hives and stole the honey inside. The wild animal, one of a protected species, didn't turn up to court so had to be convicted in its absence. The bear was found guilty and as it had no owner, the state was instructed to pay the exasperated beekeeper damages.

**GUILTY**





# THE WORLD AT WAR

DID YOU KNOW?

POPOV, DUKAN POPOV



## WHAT DOES THE 'D' IN D-DAY STAND FOR?



The term 'D-Day' is simply a way of describing a specific day on which an event, usually a military operation, is scheduled to happen.

The 'D' isn't short for anything - it's just clearer to say 'D' than something along the lines of 'THE Day'. Similarly, 'H-Hour' is the term used to describe the hour at

which the attack is planned. The most famous D-Day is, of course, the Allied invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944 - a pivotal moment in World War II - but there have been many other D-Days. The term was first used nearly 30 years earlier, during World War I, to prepare for the Battle of Saint-Mihiel in 1918.

### 116,000

The estimated number of civilians made homeless during the 1968 Battle of Hue in the Vietnam War.

#### DAY OF DAYS

When you hear 'D-Day', you think of 6 June 1944 - but that was just one of many



# Did Hitler really snub Jesse Owens in 1936?

THE OLYMPICS  
At Jesse Owens  
winning the  
100m sprint  
at the Berlin  
Olympics 1936  
Luz Long gives the  
Nazi salute



© The undoubted star of the 1936 Berlin Olympics was Jesse Owens, winner of four gold medals. While the Nazis hoped the games would demonstrate supremacy of the white Aryan 'race', the black American athlete's triumphs stomped on their plans. And though it's true that Hitler did not present Owens' gold medal, this wasn't a personal snub – the Führer wanted to present medals only to German winners. When he was told he had to congratulate all of the winners, Hitler decided not to present medals to anyone.

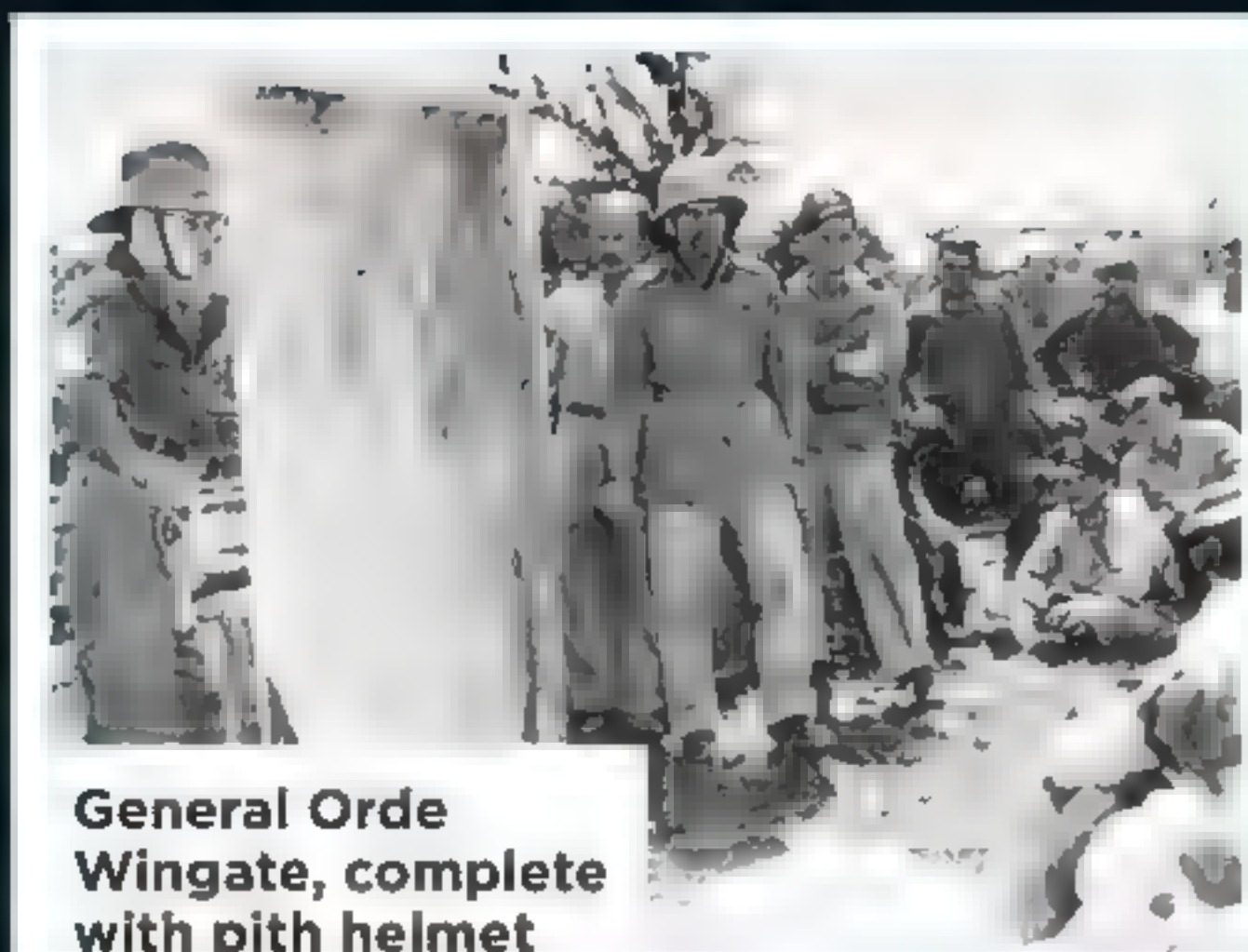
## 5,546

The number of British soldiers court-martialed for acts of drunkenness in the Crimean War

## WHO WERE THE CHINDITS?

© A British India special forces unit, the Chindits took their name from the mythical beast that stands guard at the entrance of Buddhist temples. They took part in two operations in Burma in 1943 and 1944, mounted by British General Orde Wingate, who believed troops could operate behind the Japanese lines and assist regular forces by cutting enemy communications.

Results were modest – and resulted in a third of the brigade becoming casualties – but news of the first operation raised British morale at a time of defeat. In a second, much larger operation at the same time as the Battles of Imphal and Kohima (when Indian and British troops halted the Japanese advance), Chindits helped the Chinese capture the town of Mogaung while others cut an important railway line. However, losses through disease were crippling and Wingate himself died in an air crash.



General Orde Wingate, complete with pith helmet

## DID WOMEN FIGHT IN THE BRITISH CIVIL WARS?

© Charles I certainly thought, so for in 1643 the king issued a proclamation forbidding women from dressing as men in order to fight. A small number of women did take part in combat – a famous example was Jane Ingilby of Ripley Castle, who reputedly charged with the King's cavalry at Marston Moor – while many travelled with the armies as camp followers.

Some aristocratic women took command at home while their husbands were away. Lady Brilliana Harley defended Brampton Bryan in Herefordshire against the Royalists, and Lady Mary Bankes held Corfe Castle for the King during two sieges. When the Roundheads climbed the walls, she – along with her daughters and female servants – drove them off by raining hot coals and stones on their heads.

Women certainly took an active role in towns and cities. Thousands dug defences in London amid fears of a Royalist attack in 1642, and 400 women helped defend Lyme by putting out fires, standing guard, reloading muskets and shooting at Royalists. Then when the besiegers temporarily withdrew, they ran out with picks and shovels and levelled the earthworks.

**ARE THERE ANY WOMEN HERE?**  
This would have been a huge risk as Charles I forbade women from dressing as men to fight





## IS THE TOMMY GUN NAMED AFTER ANYONE?

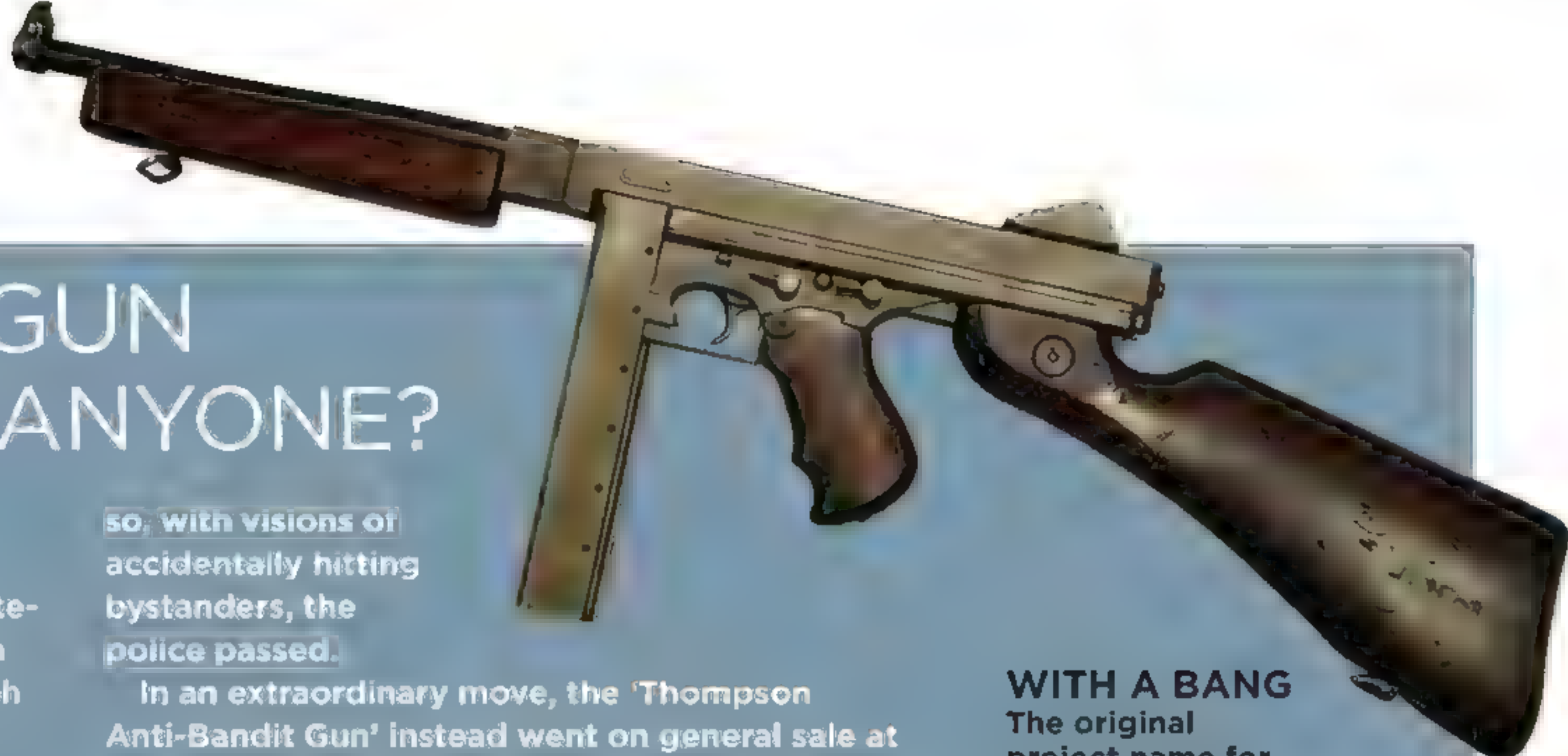
**Target** During World War I, General John T. Thompson spent so long developing a hand-held submachine gun – a steel-plate-piercing weapon capable of firing 800 rounds a minute – that by the time he was ready to launch his invention, it wasn't needed.

Thompson, not intending the gun for civilian use, therefore approached the American police. Yet it was jumpy and couldn't guarantee accuracy

so, with visions of accidentally hitting bystanders, the police passed.

In an extraordinary move, the 'Thompson Anti-Bandit Gun' instead went on general sale at gun suppliers as well as hardware and even drug stores, making the 'Chicago Typewriter' as it was nicknamed, available to every bandit in town.

**WITH A BANG**  
The original project name for the Tommy gun was 'the Annihilator'



## HOW WERE THE CRUSADERS SUPPLIED?

**Target** One way the Crusades differed from medieval wars was in supplying the armies. Most European armies of the time lived off the land, which worked well enough in the fertile countries of northern Europe but not in the semi-arid lands of the Middle East. During the First Crusade (1095–99), thousands of invaders died of starvation, and things weren't much better during the Second (1147–49). Leaders began to see the importance of logistics. Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I insisted that every German crusader had enough money to keep himself and his family abroad for a year.

Diplomats were sent ahead to arrange safe passage and buy food. Richard I even established a supply base for his forces on Cyprus.

Securing a good supply of water was even more vital. During the 12th century, the Christians frequently thwarted Muslim incursions by taking up positions well supplied with water, thus letting heat and thirst defeat the enemy. But when, in 1187, they marched away from their water supplies in a bid to relieve the besieged town of Tiberias, their thirsty army fell apart and was destroyed by Saladin at the Battle of Hattin.

**MARCHING ON ITS STOMACH**  
The desert proved a deadly opponent to crusaders



42

Napoleon's placing out of a class of 58 when he graduated from military college in 1785.



### THE RIVALS

Churchill once said: "If Hitler invaded Hell, I would make at least a favourable reference to the devil"

## Did Hitler and Churchill ever meet?

**Target** Almost. In 1932, Winston Churchill was writing a biography of his ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, so was touring some old battlefields of Europe. When he arrived in Munich, an intermediary organised a meeting between him and the rising force in German politics, one Adolf Hitler. But when Churchill

sent a pre-emptive list of questions to challenge Hitler's racial bias towards the Jewish people – including "How can any man help how he is born?"

Hitler cancelled. Months later, Churchill correctly predicted Jewish persecutions and pogroms, though not even he could foresee the scale of the barbaric genocide to come.



# WHY WAS AGINCOURT SIGNIFICANT?



**LAST TO FALL**  
Agincourt led, in turn, to the Siege of Rouen, a key victory for Henry V's conquest of Normandy

**©** In military terms, Henry V's victory at Agincourt in 1415 achieved little. No territories were gained and Henry was no nearer to the crown of France. But politically and psychologically, the battle was another matter. By defeating the might of France, Henry earned enormous prestige for himself and the Lancastrian dynasty. An increasingly united England saw the victory as evidence of God's approval of the relatively new regime, while foreign courts saw Henry as a force to be reckoned with. Sigismund, the Holy Roman Emperor, signed a treaty with England acknowledging Henry's claim to the French throne.

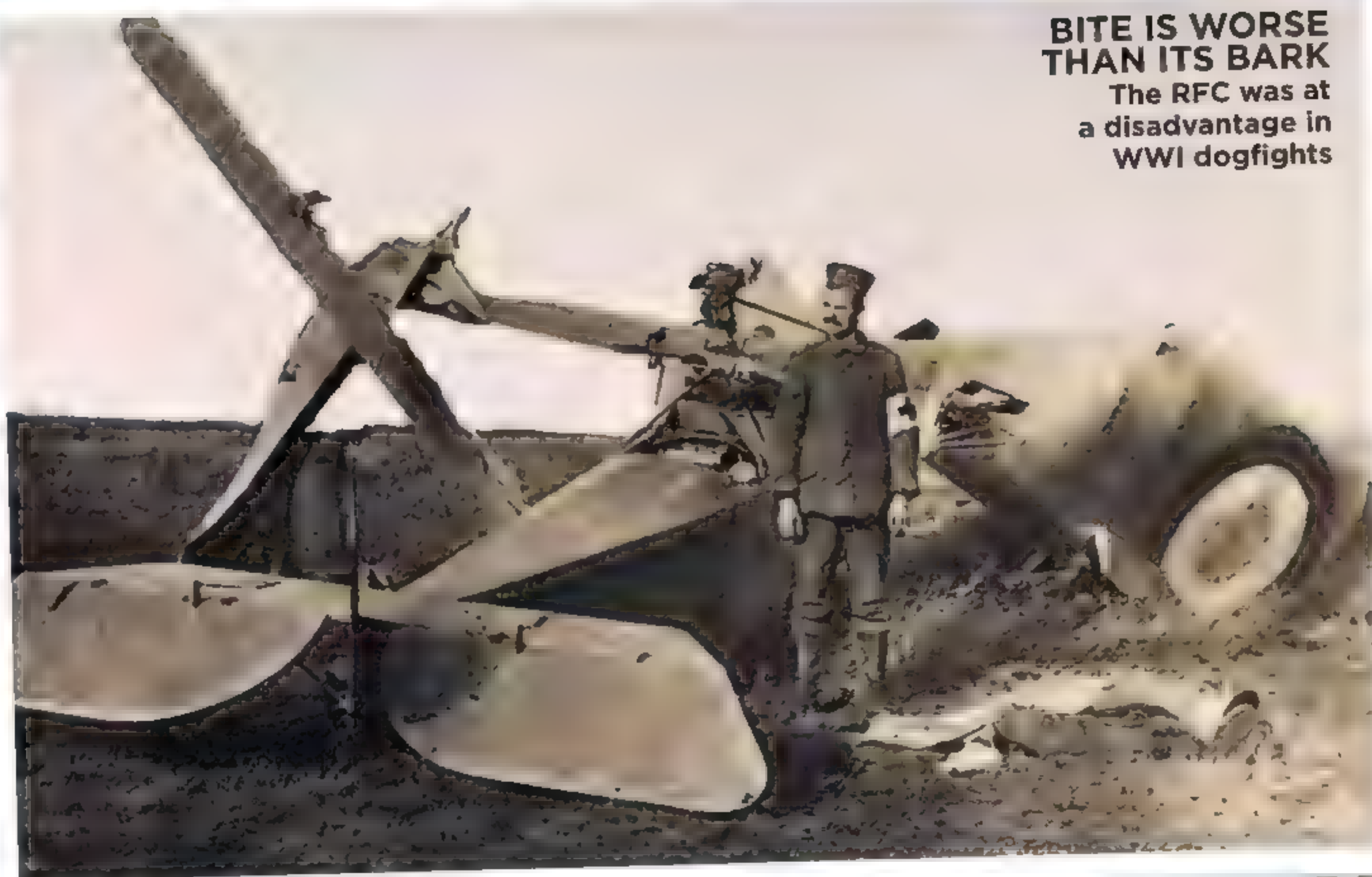
Agincourt made the country more willing, for the time being, to pay for further campaigns against the French. In 1417, Henry was able to mount a full-scale invasion of Normandy, and while he will always be remembered for Agincourt, it was this campaign that best demonstrated his abilities as a warrior king. He made extensive use of ships to protect, transport and supply his men, not only across the Channel but up the rivers of Normandy as well. He also built up a powerful train of siege artillery, which he used to batter the towns of Normandy into submission. By the time Rouen surrendered in January 1419, Henry had proven himself the undisputed master of the region.



# What was the most dangerous job in World War I?

**©** The pilots of the Royal Flying Corps were at the greatest risk. A staggering 8,000 men died during training, which lasted just 15 hours, and if they survived that, they faced the superior German planes and pilots. Indeed, in the early months of World War I, while enemy aircraft were mounted with machine guns, the only weapon the men of the RFC wielded was a handheld pistol.

During the war, British losses in the air force were much higher than its German counterpart, sometimes sustaining four times as many casualties. Inexperienced and outgunned, life expectancy in the RFC pilots had just 18 airborne hours – a horrific statistic compounded by the fact that commanders banned parachutes in case they encouraged cowardice.



**BITE IS WORSE THAN ITS BARK**  
The RFC was at a disadvantage in WWI dogfights



# What was a dragoon?

**●** In the 17th century, army commanders decided it would be useful to have some soldiers who could ride around and then dismount to shoot. The muskets of the time were too long to be carried on horseback, so these new soldiers were equipped with shorter firearms known as 'dragons'. The soldiers carrying them became known as 'dragons' in France and 'dragoons' in England. Eventually, these mounted infantrymen developed into cavalry proper with light dragoons specialising in scouting and skirmishing and the heavy dragoons used for massed cavalry charges. Louis XIV of France tried to intimidate Protestant families into re-converting to Catholicism by billeting ill-disciplined dragoons on them. This practice has given rise to the expression 'to dragoon someone into doing something'.



**ON A MISSION**  
A dragoon strongly suggests a Huguenot converts to Catholicism

## HALT the HUN!



### BUY U.S. GOVERNMENT BONDS THIRD LIBERTY LOAN

The term 'Hun' would regularly be seen on propaganda posters

## WHY DID THE ALLIES DURING WORLD WAR I CALL GERMANS 'HUNS'?



**●** What do German soldiers have to do with the Huns, a nomadic tribe probably from Mongolia? Under the leadership of Attila, the Huns terrorised the Roman Empire in the mid-fifth century, extorting large sums of money with their menaces. Attila the Hun, considered by Rome as the ultimate savage barbarian, was referred to as the 'Scourge of God', and the reputation stuck. Throughout the Middle Ages, he was regularly depicted in art as the antichrist and his army as a horde of demons.

Then in the mid-19th century, the Hun was resurrected as an Asiatic foe – at the same time the British empire viewed China as a direct threat. So in the early months of World War I, the allies applied the term 'Hun' to the forces of Germany and Austro-Hungary in order to conjure up images of a bestial foe. This can be seen, most notably, in a series of striking 'Beat Back the Hun' / 'Halt the Hun' posters, designed to persuade the American people to buy war bonds, in which the enemy is shown as a blood-crazed barbarian.

**NATIONAL HERO**  
Wallace stands in Union  
Gardens, Aberdeen

## WHO WAS WILLIAM WALLACE?

**●** Wallace remains one of British history's more shadowy figures, and it's not easy to distinguish fact from fiction. What we do know is that he certainly wasn't the wood-painted kilt-wearer portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*. He actually came from a minor

knighthood family, and while historians disagree over the details, he was probably born in Renfrewshire in the early 1270s. Not much is known about his early life, although it's not impossible that he was already an outlaw when the English invaded Scotland in 1296.



18

The number of minutes it took for RMS *Lusitania* to sink in 1915 after being struck by a German U-boat torpedo, killing 1,198 people

## HOW MANY MEN DIED AT FORT SUMTER?



Considering that the horrific death toll of the American Civil

War would reach 750,000, it is strange to think that the first engagement, the bombardment of Fort Sumter, ended around 17 hours. Confederate forces fired on the Union Army's island fortress at the entrance to Charleston's harbour on 12 April 1861. After 34 hours and 3,000 shots, general officer PGT Beauregard ordered a halt to the bombardment when it became clear that the 85 Union troops, under Major Robert Anderson, were about to surrender. Despite no deaths, Fort Sumter shocked the North as stirring accounts of the Stars and Stripes flag on fire filled the newspapers.



### ENDLESS NIGHT

American bomber planes on their way to attack Tokyo, a target for constant bombardment

## Which city was bombed the most during WWII?



During World War II, airpower was used to intimidate and terrify the enemy through aerial bombardment of cities. Although bombing was initially intended to focus upon military and industrial installations, densely populated centres, as well as cultural landmarks, soon came to be considered legitimate targets.

Starting in September 1940, London was subjected to 57 consecutive nights of bombing, while Berlin was hit by over 360 air raids between 1940 and 1945. The greatest number of raids took place in Tokyo where, between November 1944 and August 1945, nearly 800,000 buildings in the Japanese capital were destroyed and 130,000 people killed.

## Was Hitler any good at painting?



While leaders like Winston Churchill and George W Bush painted as a post-politics hobby, a young Adolf Hitler paid the bills as a jobbing artist from 1910-14. He was, however, technically mediocre. He failed his entrance exam to art school, partly down to his (rather symbolic) struggle to capture the human form. As a reader of history and mythology, and with a mind bubbling with political theories, it's somewhat surprising this angry outsider painted bland postcards scenes of buildings and landscapes. So not only was he a modest talent, but his art was pedestrian in a radical era of Picasso and Van Gogh.

### ADOLF THE ARTIST

Hitler painted *The Courtyard of the Old Residency in Munich* (right) in 1914



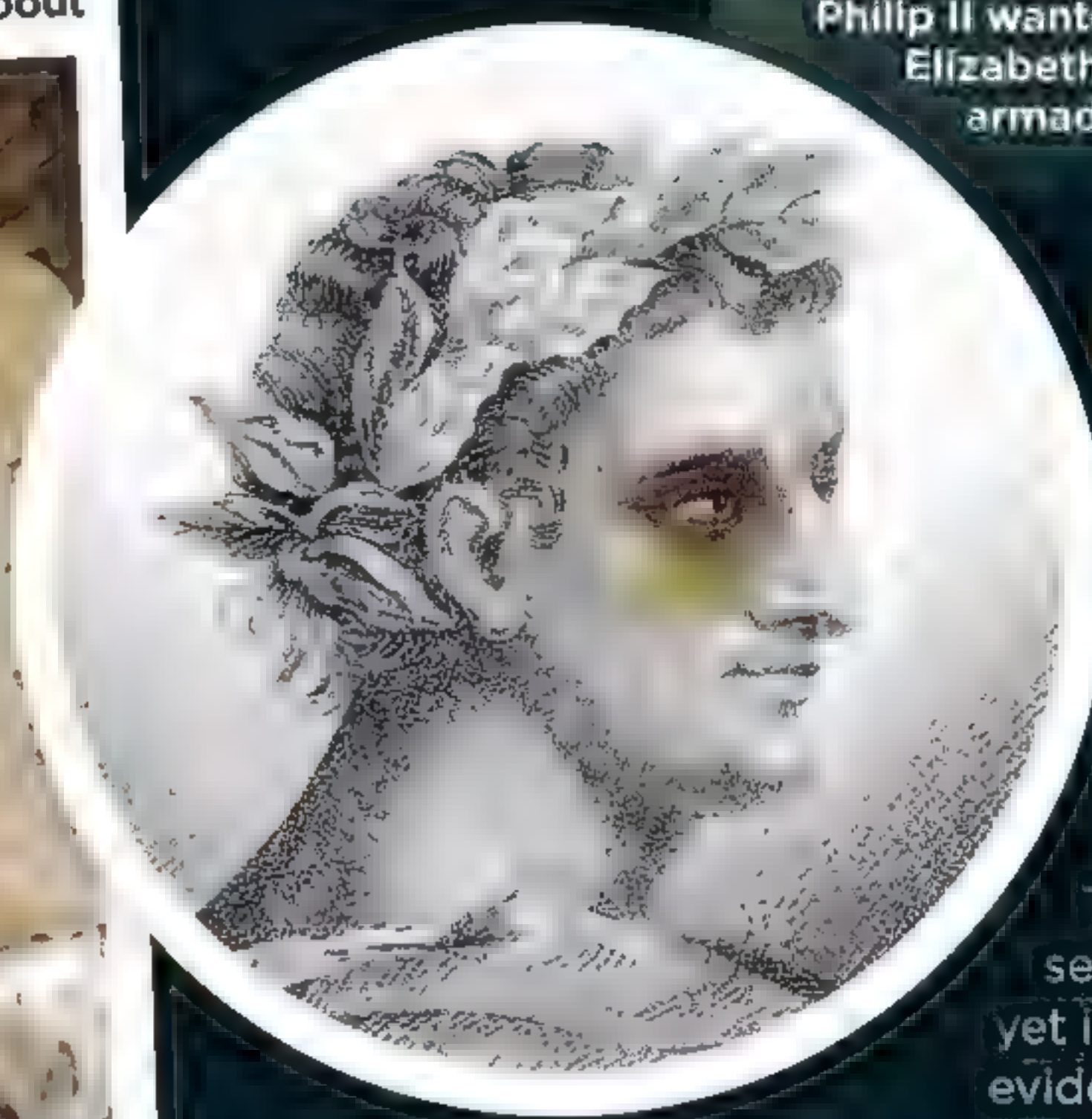


# TOP 10

## WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST BLUNDERS EVER MADE?



Always lock up properly when a marauding army is about



Philip II wanted to overthrow Elizabeth I - instead his armada was humiliated

### NERO AND ZERO

**BLUNDER:** Going against the Emperor - albeit unknowingly  
**COST:** A Roman senator takes his own life

Everyone's favourite tyrannical Roman emperor, Nero, went through a phase of dressing in disguise, taking to the streets with his mates and starting fights. On one such rampage, c56 AD, he picked on a senator named Montanus, who put up a fight and left Nero black and blue. The victor later realised who his opponent was and sent a note of apology to the Emperor. It was a polite yet idiotic gesture as that note was the incriminating evidence for his treason. He swiftly took his own life.

### KEY TO THE CITY

**BLUNDER:** Letting the wrong ones in  
**COST:** Constantinople falls

For centuries, Constantinople (now Istanbul) was a fierce stronghold but in 1453, the Byzantine capital finally fell. Why? Well, after 53 days being besieged by the vast Ottoman army, someone left a gate unlocked (it could happen to anyone). As the Ottomans poured through the wall, all hell broke loose, as soldiers and civilians were slaughtered alike and 30,000 were enslaved.

### MARKET MIX UP

**BLUNDER:** Sharing too much  
**COST:** £190 million on the stock market

In 2005, a Japanese trader made a stock-market slip up that lost Mizuho Securities a cool £190 million. Instead of selling one share of a manpower recruitment firm at 610,000 yen, he sold 610,000 shares for one yen (0.5p). Despite the investment bank's numerous attempts to block the sale, the disastrous deal went through.



### OH, BLAST!

**BLUNDER:** NASA screws up its sums  
**COST:** A \$125 million satellite

NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter was supposed to be the first weather observer on the red planet, but on 23 September 1999 (nine months after blast off), communication abruptly ended. It turned out that while one team had used pounds-seconds for the craft's complex calculations, another used the metric units of Newton-seconds. The result was the \$125 million Orbiter going too close to the planet, and disintegrating in the upper atmosphere.



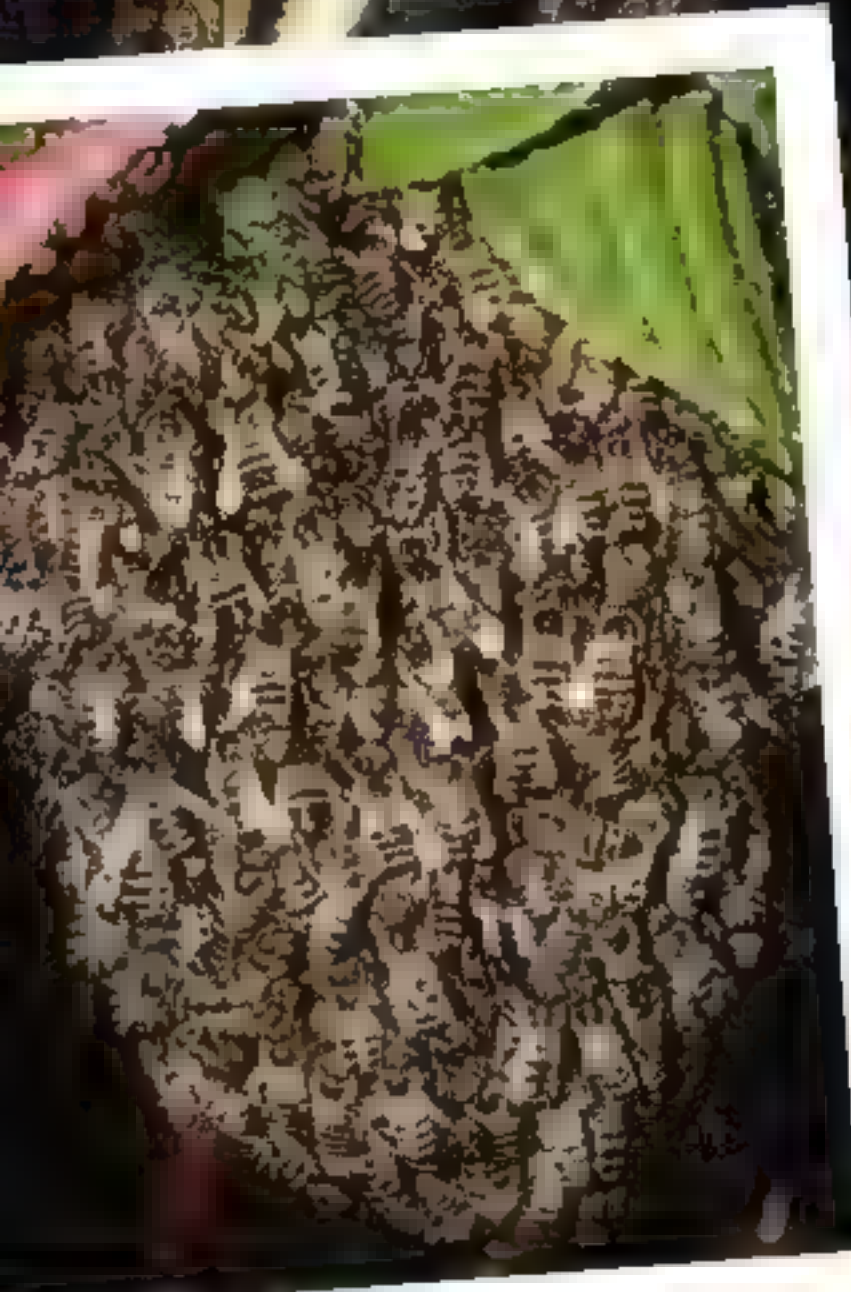




## IN AT THE DEEP END

**BLUNDER:** Landlubber left all at sea  
**COST:** The Spanish Armada is crushed

In 1588, Philip II of Spain decided to send his mighty Armada to attack England. As his long-term admiral had recently died, the King put the Duke of Medina-Sidonia, an army man with negligible naval experience, in charge of his 130-vessel-strong fleet. Despite the Duke's own protests, he ended up leading 27,000 men into battle. His lack of experience ranks pretty highly among the reasons for the Armada's failure.



## COVERED IN BEES!

**BLUNDER:** Cross-breeding comes with a sting  
**COST:** African 'killer' bees at large

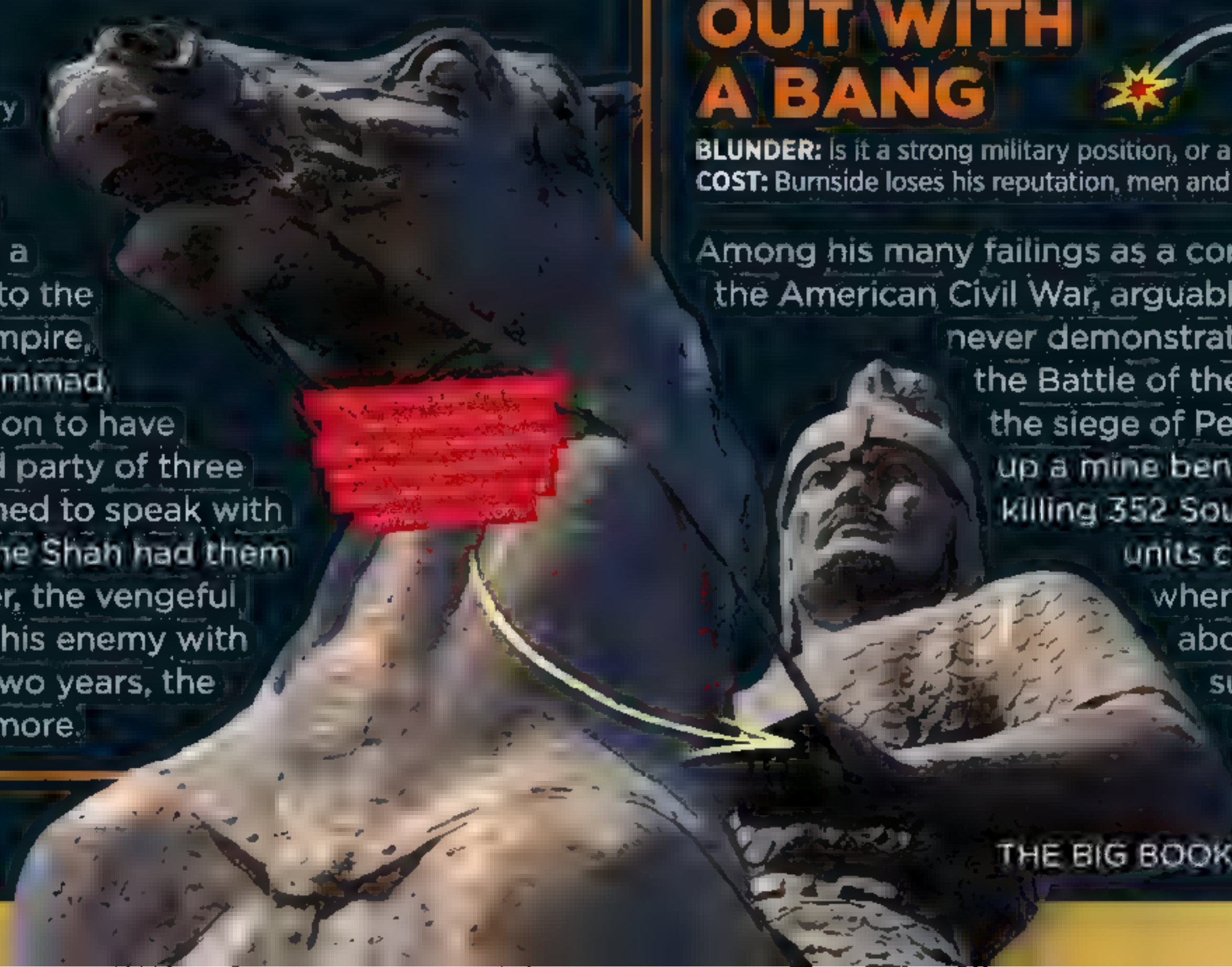
Brazilian scientist Warwick Kerr began cross-breeding species to develop the Africanised bee in the 1950s, in the hope of increasing honey production. But that was only the bee-ginning. When, in 1957, 26 swarms were accidentally released into the wild by a temporary beekeeper, it was discovered that Kerr's Africanised bees were quite the murderous little

invertebrates. Forming super-aggressive swarms, they have – so far – killed some 1,000 people across the Americas.

## WRATH OF KHAN

**BLUNDER:** Making Genghis Khan angry  
**COST:** End of the Khwarezm Empire

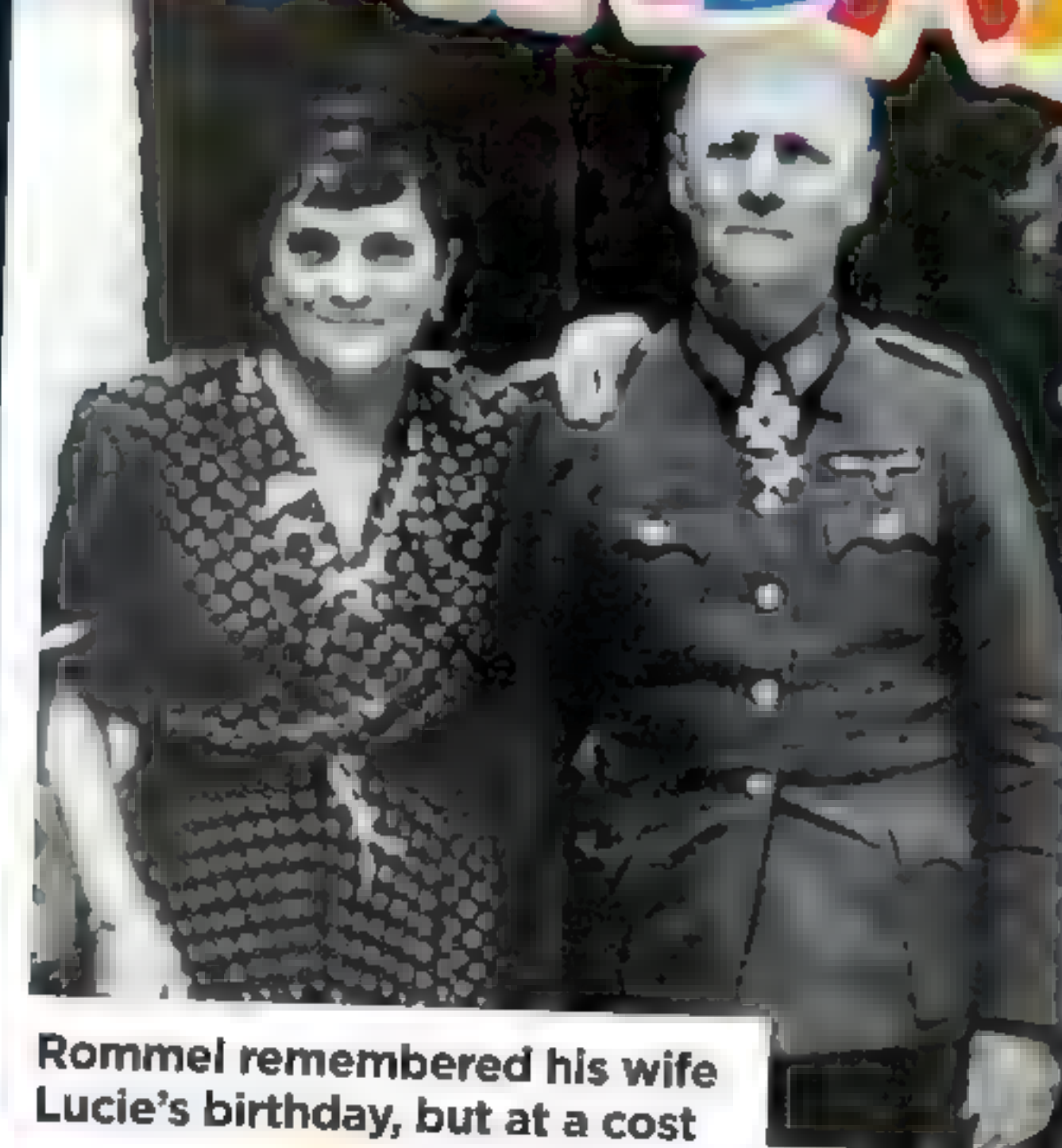
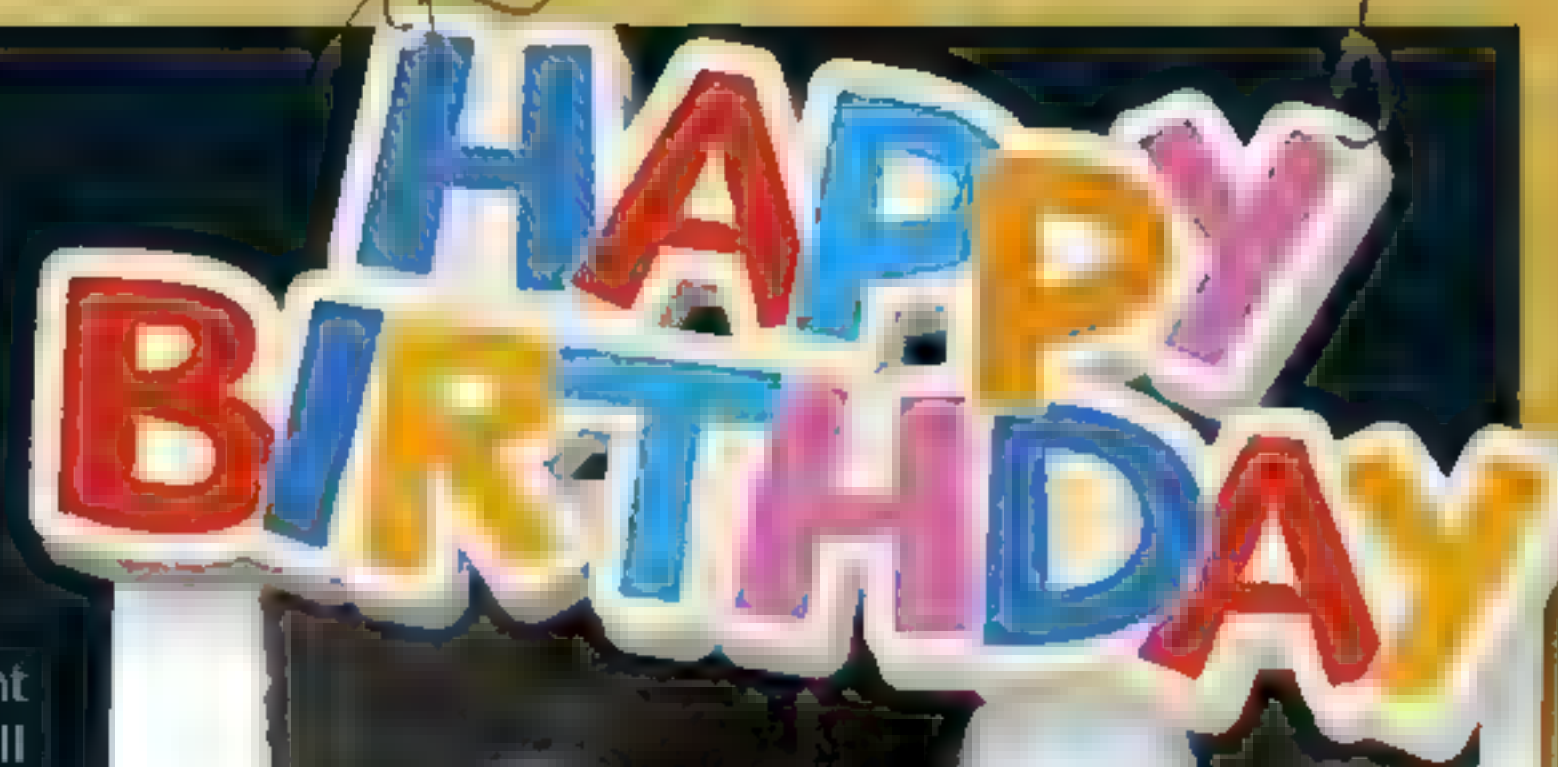
When, in c1218, the Mongol warlord Genghis Khan sent a caravan of 500 emissaries to the neighbouring Khwarezm empire, the Shah, Alā' ad-Dīn Muhammad, made the interesting decision to have them all arrested. A second party of three ambassadors was despatched to speak with the Emperor directly, but the Shah had them decapitated. Quick to anger, the vengeful Genghis Khan marched on his enemy with 200,000 men and, within two years, the Khwarezm empire was no more.



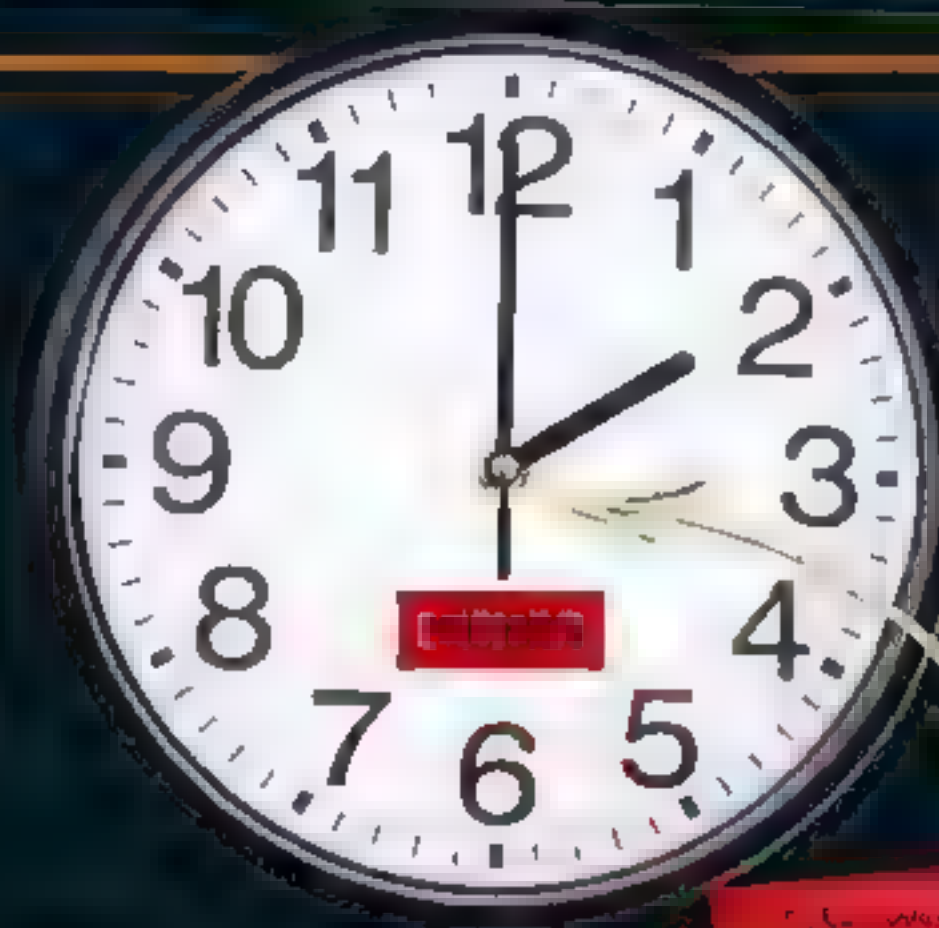
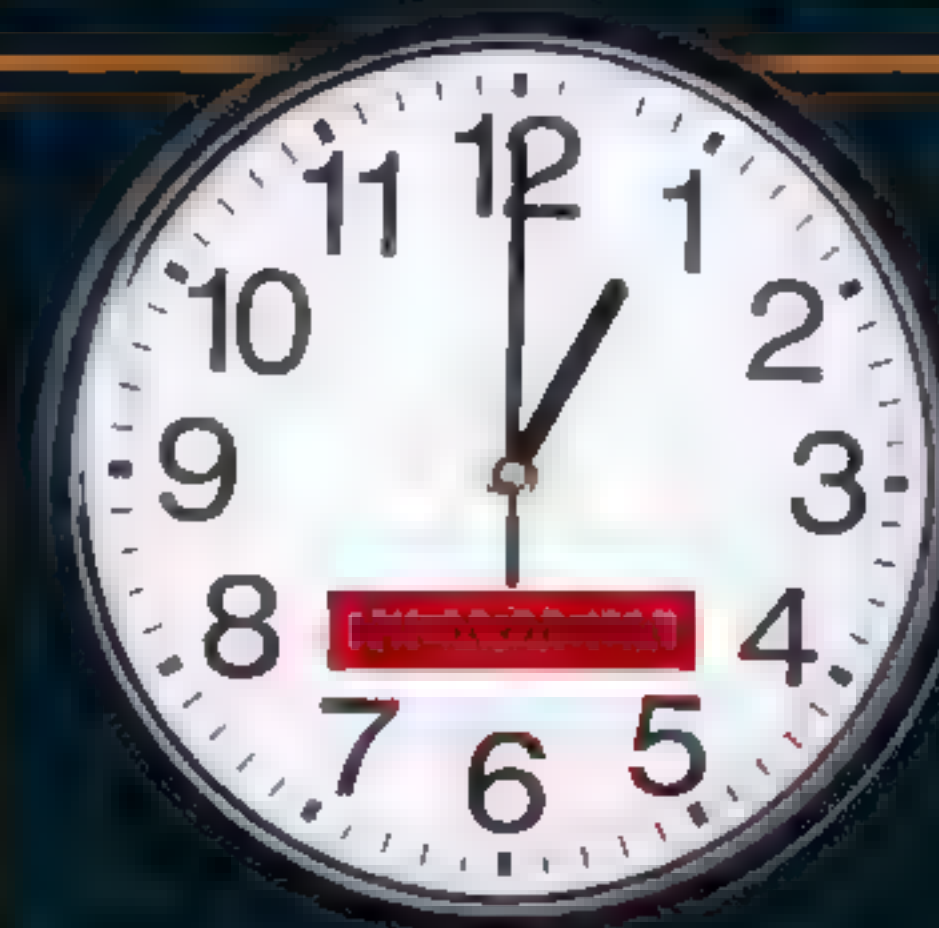
## BIRTHDAY BREAK

**BLUNDER:** Pricey birthday present  
**COST:** German advantage in WWII

German field marshal Erwin Rommel, entrusted with defending north-west France from Allied attack, must have felt pretty confident in June 1944, because, with his wife's birthday coming up, he popped home to see her. Unfortunately, that happened to be exactly when the Allies launched history's largest sea-borne invasion – D-Day.



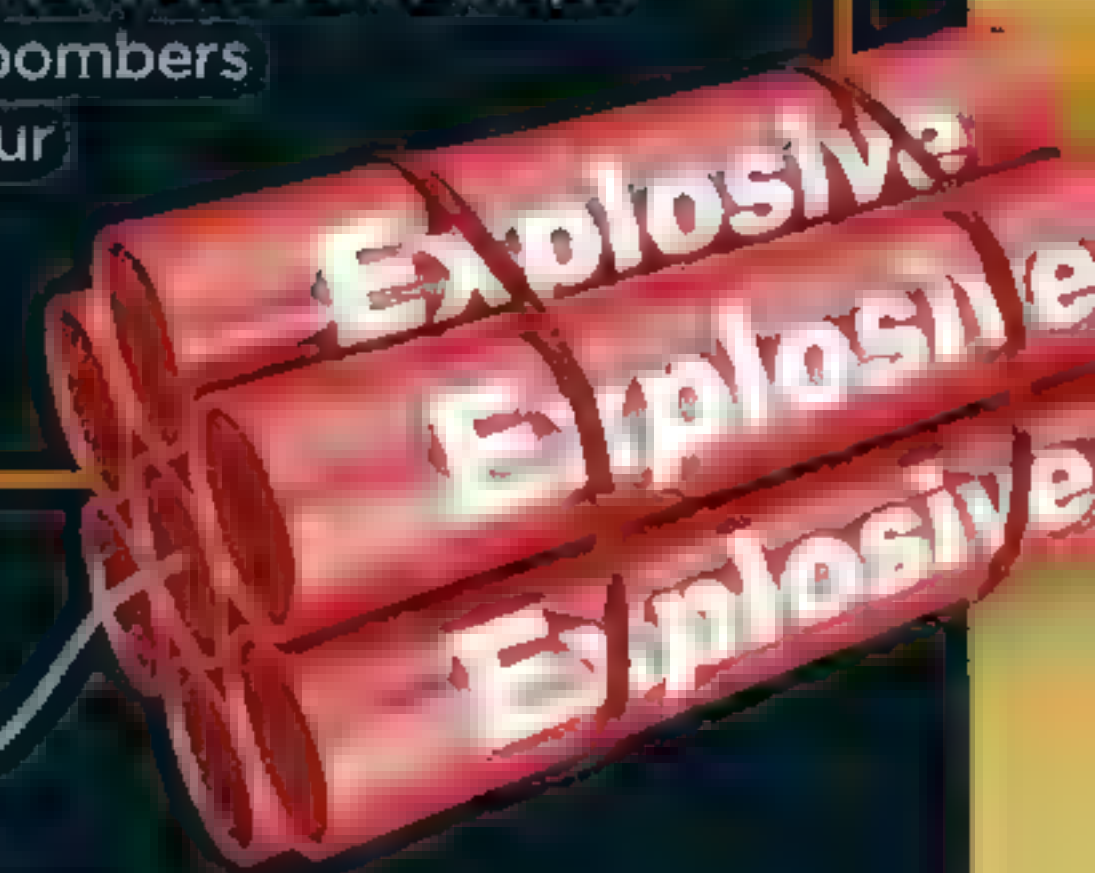
Rommel remembered his wife Lucie's birthday, but at a cost



## RUNNING OUT OF TIME

**BLUNDER:** No one at the CIA could tell the time  
**COST:** Failed invasion of Cuba, almost 1,200 paramilitaries captured

The CIA's strike on Castro's Cuba, at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, was a total embarrassment for the US. Like a matryoshka doll, the short-lived conflict contained many smaller fiascos. Perhaps the most groan-worthy came when six bombers arrived for a mission on day three an hour late – apparently those in command hadn't factored in the time difference between Nicaragua and Cuba.



## OUT WITH A BANG

**BLUNDER:** Is it a strong military position, or a steaming crater?  
**COST:** Burnside loses his reputation, men and job in one day

Among his many failings as a commander of the Union army in the American Civil War, arguably General Ambrose Burnside never demonstrated his ineptitude more than at the Battle of the Crater in July 1864. As part of the siege of Petersburg, Virginia, his forces blew up a mine beneath the Confederate defences, killing 352 Southern soldiers. He then sent his units charging into the smoking crater, where they could do little but dither about as easy targets. The Union army suffered 3,800 casualties to the Confederates' 1,200, and Burnside was quickly out of a job.



# HOW WE USED TO LIVE

**BATH TIME!**  
In several ancient civilisations, bathing was a public pastime – not saying these women are ancient!



## DID YOU KNOW?

### CROSSING THE LINE

In the upper reaches of Mayan society, having cross eyes was deemed to be attractive as it honoured the cross-eyed sun god, Kinich Ahau. Mums would therefore dangle a ball of wax from the hair of their newborn in the hopes of making them cross-eyed.

## HOW OLD IS BATHING?



It is thought that humans have bathed since the Stone Age, not least because the vast majority of European caves containing Palaeolithic art are short distances from natural springs. By the Bronze Age, beginning around 5,000 years ago, washing had become very important. Ancient Egyptian priests kept themselves fastidiously clean, but

arguably the greatest washers were the Harappan people living in the Indus Valley, in modern-day south-east Asia.

Their city of Mohenjo-daro (Mound of the Dead) boasted a 'Great Bath', covering an area of over 80 metres, which was a ritual space for religious bathing. This was perhaps not open to all ranks of society, but throughout

Harappan cities, there were wells and bathing platforms for the masses. At Mohenjo-Daro, one building included an underground furnace, possibly so baths could be heated. Indeed, the Harappans were obsessed with water, and had sophisticated hygienic infrastructure to deliver it to and from their homes.



# What are the origins of Halloween?



**HELLO, BOYS AND GHOULS**  
Halloween blends harvest thanksgiving - hence pumpkins and apples - and communion with the dead

Before it became the modern festival of pop-culture horror, Halloween was simply the evening before All Hallows' Day - the Christian feast commemorating the saints and martyrs. Introduced in the early-seventh century, All Hallows' (also known as All Saints') Day was originally a celebration of rebirth in spring. But in AD 835, the date was switched to 1 November in an attempt to Christianise pagan harvest festivals.

One such celebration was Samhain, a feast marking the start of winter. This was believed to be a time when barriers between the worlds of the living and dead were broken, and offerings were made to the spirits of the departed - themes echoed in ghoulish celebrations today.



## WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF THE TERMS 'STARBOARD' AND 'PORT'?

When facing forwards along a ship, the right side is known as 'starboard' and the left side as 'larboard' or 'port'. Of these, port is easiest to track. The word was adopted in the early 17th century by captains to avoid confusion between the similar-sounding larboard and starboard when giving helm orders. In 1844, it was officially made the sole term for the left side of a ship in the Royal Navy. As for the older terms, these were in use from at least the 10th century. Starboard referred to the steering oar on that side of the ship, secured to the top board of the hull and used for steering before rudders were invented. Larboard appears to have referred to the side over which goods were loaded from the dock.



## WHERE DOES THE WORD 'HONEYMOON' COME FROM?

The tradition of couples taking a holiday after marriage most likely stems from the 'bridal tours' popular among the upper classes, combined with the rise of popular travel and tourism in the 1800s. The

word itself, however, existed much earlier.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, its origin was most likely a charming (if bleak) allusion to love, which "waned steadily as the moon does". One of the

earliest uses, dating to a 1552 book, reveals that the word was thought to originate with "the vulgar people" and that it was "applied to such as be new married (which) loveth each other at the beginning exceedingly".

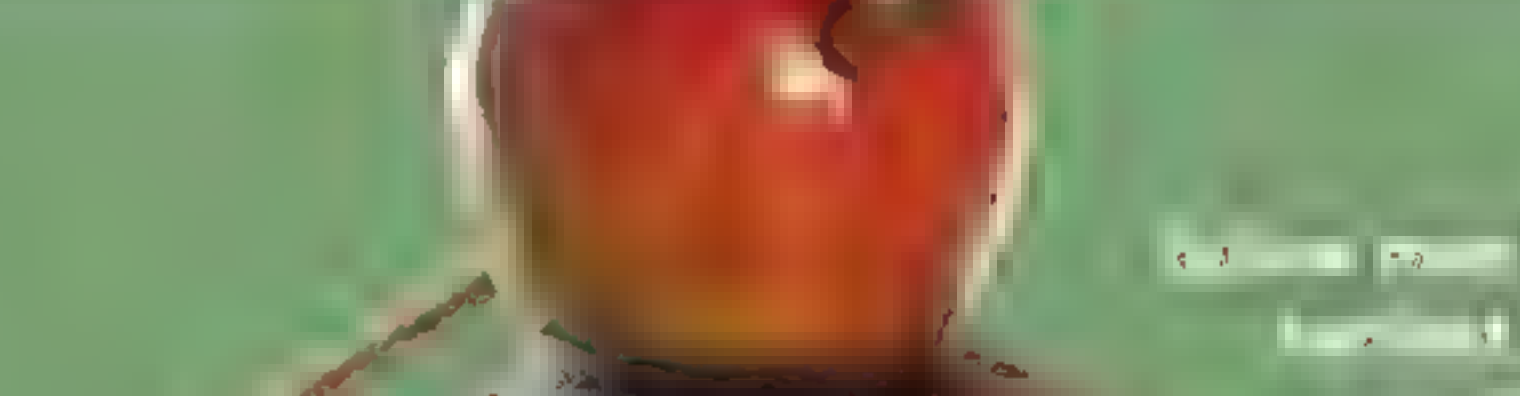


# WHO WAS WILLIAM TELL?

Apple (NASDAQ: AAPL) has managed to keep its stock price high and growing. But how?

Apple's financial performance has been outstanding, and its stock price has risen steadily. This is due to the company's strong financial performance, which has been driven by its innovative products and services.

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# WHEN WAS A PROSTHETIC LIMB FIRST USED?

 A 3,000-year-old, wood-and-leather toe found on an Egyptian mummy – and the discovery in Italy of an artificial leg dating back to 300 BC – show that manufacturing prosthetic limbs was already possible in the ancient world. In the fifth century BC, Greek historian Herodotus wrote of a Persian soldier who had replaced his lost foot with a wooden version, while 500 years later, Pliny the Elder gives the earliest record of a prosthetic hand in his account of Roman general Marcus Sergius, who replaced a lost hand with one made of iron and able to grasp his shield. Centuries of war inspired technological advancements of prosthetics into the early modern era, including improved devices for adjustment and articulation of joints, and the use of lighter materials.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**ROARING RE**  
During the French Revolution of 1793, the National Convention ordered the execution of the nobles, ruined rich should be killed; they were the Jardin des Paris, making it first public

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**ROARING REVOLUTION**

During the French Revolution, in 1793, the National Convention ordered the exotic pets of the ruined rich should be studied. Although initially intended to be killed, they were housed at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, making it France's first public zoo.

Historically, it was actually girls who were often dressed in blue, as it was thought to be a calm, dainty colour. Pink, on the other hand, represented the hot, impulsive nature of boys. This colour scheme persisted until the end of the 19th century but was still being discussed as late as 1927 in a *Time* magazine article. Before pre-natal testing, bootie-knitting grannies-to-be often chose white, the colour of innocence, or yellow as 'neutral' shades to hedge their bets. In truth, we don't know the reasons for the about-face in the 1940s, but by the 1960s 'pink for girls' was so ingrained it became a cause celebre for the feminist movement.



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**TRUE COLOURS**  
Pink used to be for boys, and blue for girls





#### THAT'S A SNUFF

Sneezes were common after a pinch of snuff but they would be mocked as the sign of a beginner

## WHAT WAS SNUFF?

**Target** A finely ground smokeless tobacco inhaled through the nostrils, 'taking snuff' began in the Americas and was introduced into Spain following Christopher Columbus's second voyage to the New World in the 1490s. The supposed medicinal properties of tobacco saw it grow in popularity in Europe, especially in the 1560s after the French queen Catherine de' Medici declared it a wonder for headaches (it had been recommended by John Nicot, who later gave his name to nicotine).

The fashion continued to spread throughout Europe, so that by the 1700s snuff had become a luxury product and mark of refinement. Though the stereotypical image of the snuff-taker is the Georgian dandy, it was also used among women. George III's queen was so fond of it that her nickname was 'Snuffy Charlotte'. As with all fashions, it fell from favour as new stimulants appeared.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### OUT FOR THE COUNT

In 1911, hundreds of votes-for-women campaigners either defaced census forms with defiant messages or they hid from the enumerator. Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison was counted only after being found hiding in a cupboard in the Houses of Parliament.

#### TITLE CONTENDER

Antipope John XXIII was one of three popes deposed during the Great Schism

## Has there ever been more than one pope at once?

**Target** There were around 40 'Antipopes' – claiming legitimacy while other popes held office – between the third and 15th centuries. These bizarre scenarios could emerge from religious doctrinal squabbles, but politics was usually to blame. In the late 11th century, Henry IV – the Holy Roman Emperor – famously battled with Pope Gregory VII over the right to appoint his own bishops, and retaliating by creating his own Antipope.

Worse still, in 1409, there were three competing popes. This was the low-point of the so-called Western Schism, a 40-year argument resulting from the papacy moving from Rome to Avignon, and then back again.

# 12





# How old is the **pencil**?

After the 16th-century discovery of a large source of pure and solid graphite in Cumbria, the invention of the pencil soon followed in the 1560s. The dark, crumbly new resource was initially mistaken for lead - it was named *plumbago* ('lead ore' in Latin) - but people quickly realised it produced a darker dye. The soft nature of graphite, however, meant the initial writing sticks snapped too easily, so had to be wrapped in string or wool to keep them in one piece.

This idea was developed into a new technique where the graphite could be encased in two strips of juniper wood glued together. We know the Swiss naturalist Konrad Gesner observed such a wooden pencil, and the device was immediately adopted by European artists. Indeed, it's due to their influence that its name stuck - *pincel* was the French word for a tiny single hair paintbrush used for delicate detailing.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### YOUR MONEY OR YOUR WIFE

To combat falling marriage rates and encourage large families, Benito Mussolini's regime made single Italian men pay a bachelor tax. The fascist ruler, called Il Duce, called for women to have at least a dozen children.

## SHAKESPEARE THE STONER

Drugs certainly could have influenced some of the Bard's work - *A Midsummer Night's Dream* anyone?

# DID PEOPLE TAKE DRUGS IN TUDOR TIMES?

Recent analysis of clay pipes found near William Shakespeare's house revealed that they contained traces of narcotics, leading to wild media speculation that the Bard's imagination was stimulated by drugs.

That said, of 24 pipes examined, two had traces of coca plant, which would have been very rare in 16th-century Stratford-upon-Avon. Coca leaves - from which cocaine was derived in the 19th century - were used as both stimulant and medicine by the Inca of Peru, but the Spanish showed no interest in introducing them to Europe. More commonly imported was *Cannabis sativa*, yet this was primarily to make hemp clothes and rope, rather than joints.

In Elizabethan England, the foremost recreational drugs were alcohol and tobacco. The fact that cannabis and hallucinogenic nutmeg have been found in smoking pipes might suggest that some people were getting high, but there are no written sources mentioning such habits. As for Shakespeare, the evidence is especially suspect - doobie or not doobie, that is the question!

# WHY DO WE REFER TO VILLAINOUS WOMEN AS 'JEZEBEL'?

According to the Old Testament, Jezebel (lived c843 BC) was a princess of the Phoenician empire (part of modern Lebanon) and the wife of King Ahab of Israel.

Their marriage was intended as an alliance to consolidate the nation's military and economic might, and heal rifts with neighbouring kingdom, Judah. Unfortunately, Ahab's choice of wife was disastrous for his dynasty. Her introduction of foreign religious practices into Israel sparked a vicious dispute with the prophet Elijah, who accused her of

"obscene idol worship", "sorceries" and other pagan practices. When he had many of her entourage killed, she responded in kind, and proved herself willing to sacrifice others for her own ends. She was ultimately thrown out of a window and trampled to death by horses.

Although scholars believe they have identified a seal bearing her name, the biblical tale is virtually the only evidence for her existence. Still, her name has been immortalised as that of a domineering and unfaithful wife, a heartless woman and the persecutor of innocent men.

## PROPHECY FULFILLED

The prophet Elijah predicted a grisly end for Jezebel






# WHO WAS GORDON BENNETT?

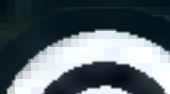
## History has given us

# How did doctors treat leprosy?

 Leprosy is one of ancient history's most documented diseases, being mentioned in Egyptian, Chinese, Greek, Roman and Indian texts. Such was the horror of 'the living death' that it would usually be regarded as divine punishment. Sufferers were treated as though they were already dead and given 'funeral' services, after which their relatives were allowed to inherit their estates.



# Why do parks have bandstands?

 The idea of open-air music in a park came from the pleasure gardens of the 18th century. It really became popular, though, when the Victorians – who were great believers in the benefits of fresh air – laid out large parks for people to stroll around in and ‘take the air’.

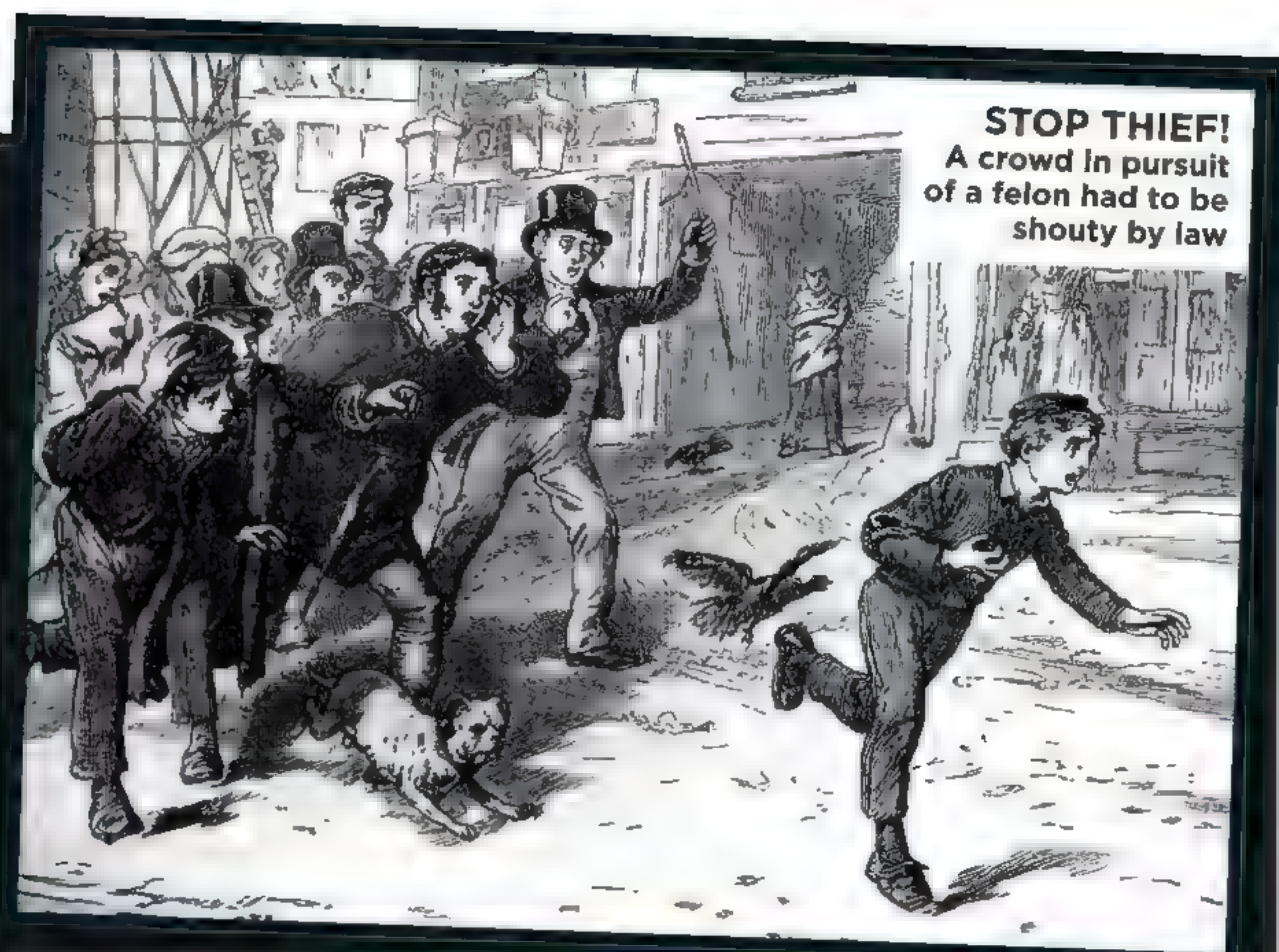
**MANLY MUSIC**  
The humble outdoor brass band may have its roots in Victorian military mania



## What did a lady-in-waiting actually do?

Every queen or princess needed her flock of female attendants, a select few drawn from the high ranks to offer companionship and practical assistance. By the 13th century, there was already a firmly established female presence at the English court – such as Eleanor of Castile's 'women and damsels of the Queen's Chamber' – and they were expected to perform certain duties.

There were mundane tasks like making their mistress's bed, carrying messages, accompanying her on visits or being entrusted with her jewels. At her coronation, Anne Boleyn's ladies were on hand to "hold a fine cloth before the Queen's face" when she needed to spit. But while everyone hoped the 'ladies-in-waiting', as they were known by the 1700s, would set a good, moral example of how one should behave in court, a royal woman would also use her ladies as confidantes or spies.



**STOP THIEF!**  
A crowd in pursuit of a felon had to be shouty by law

## WHAT EXACTLY WAS HUE AND CRY?

The 1285 Statute of Winchester declared that if anyone – whether a constable or a private citizen – witnessed a crime, they must make 'hue and cry'. This meant summoning all able-bodied men to chase after the alleged felon until they were caught and delivered to the sheriff. If the suspect was caught with stolen goods on them, they would be convicted on the spot. Under an Elizabethan amendment, if hue and cry was not made, the whole community could be held responsible for the crime and be liable for compensation.

## WHERE DOES THE WORD 'SHAMPOO' COME FROM?

Using herbs and extracts to wash hair has been around since ancient times in India, which is where the name 'shampoo' as a hygienic hair care product originated in the 1860s. It derives from the Hindi word *champo*, meaning 'to press', and referred to a form of therapeutic body massage, one often witnessed by 18th-century British visitors to India. The term gained popularity thanks to Sake Dean Mahomet, a celebrity ex-soldier from Bengal, who was appointed Shampooing Surgeon to King George IV in 1822.



## WHAT IS THE OLDEST SURVIVING ROAD MAP OF BRITAIN?

During the 18th century, when the British Empire was at its height, the Ordnance Survey was established to create a detailed map of Britain. The first map was published in 1790, and it was the first of a series of maps that would eventually cover the entire country. The map was created by a team of surveyors, and it was the first of a series of maps that would eventually cover the entire country. The map was created by a team of surveyors, and it was the first of a series of maps that would eventually cover the entire country.



# Was tarring and feathering fatal?

🎯 If tarring and feathering took place today it would certainly be able to kill. But historically, the tar used for the 'punishment' – favoured by mobs in revolutionary America – was not the asphalt tar used on our roads, but a pine resin, which melted at a much lower temperature.

That said, it was still an awful ordeal, which burned and scorched the skin, while the feathers choked the victim. And getting it off afterwards must have been excruciating as it meant scraping off the tar from already blistered skin.

British Customs Official John Malcolm was tarred and feathered twice. The first time was mild – as he was tarred over his clothes – but on the second occasion in 1774, he was stripped naked, tarred and feathered, flogged and forced to drink tea until he vomited. He was then paraded around Boston, getting frostbitten as well as scalded. He complained to the British government, enclosing bits of his skin as proof of his suffering.



**BIRDS AND THE TEAS**  
John Malcolm's tarring and feathering came soon after the Boston Tea Party

## DID YOU KNOW?

### COMET-H THE HOUR

As Earth prepared to pass through the 24-million-mile tail of Halley's Comet in 1910, some people grew scared of poisonous gases. As well as a rise in the numbers of gas masks sold, swindlers made a profit selling anti-comet pills.



**SURPRISE, SURPRISE!**  
We have the Romans to thank for all those unwanted gifts over the years

# WHEN DID PEOPLE START GIVING BIRTHDAY PRESENTS?

🎯 In most ancient cultures, the survival of an individual beyond their first year was quite an achievement. The annual celebration of birthdays, however, was comparatively rare, with many societies choosing instead to commemorate key moments in an individual's life – such as the moment of birth itself, as well as marriage or becoming an adult.

In the fifth century BC, Greek historian Herodotus noted the extremely curious (to his eyes, at least) Persian tradition of birthday feasting, where the wealthy dined on baked camel, cow and donkey. It wasn't until the first century AD that the Roman custom of celebrating the birthday of friends, family and the reigning emperor with gifts – and the excessive consumption of wine – became widely practised throughout the Empire. So extravagant and degenerate did these birthday parties become that, in the fourth century, early Christian communities tried to have them outlawed.



# TOP 10



## ARE THESE THE WILDEST AND MOST INFAMOUS PARTIES EVER?

Russian cast member Fella Doubrovskaya in character



The Italian Renaissance family makes merry in TV drama *The Borgias*

### ULTIMATE GUEST LIST

On 13 June 1923, Igor Stravinsky's ballet *Les Noces* opened in Paris. While waiting for the reviews, the cast and crew headed to a barge on the Seine, where famed socialites of the day Gerald and Sara Murphy were hosting the afterparty. Joining them were songwriter Cole Porter; artist Pablo Picasso, who rearranged the centrepieces; author Jean Cocteau (who ran around shouting that the boat was sinking); poet Tristan Tzara and the composer himself, Stravinsky (who switched the place cards around). Bravo!

### DRINKING LIKE A SAILOR

The party thrown by the First Earl of Orford, Admiral Edward Russell, in 1694 in Cadiz for his fleet must have been quite the bash as – if the reports can be believed – it included what was quite probably the biggest cocktail in history. The punch was served in a fountain – instead of water, it flowed with 946 litres of brandy, 475 litres of wine, 635 kilos of sugar, the juice of 2,500 lemons, 75 litres of lime juice, and 2 kilos of nutmeg. Apparently, it took his 6,000 guests a week to drink dry.

Russell held a ship's party in Cadiz for his fleet. The punch was served in a fountain and it took his 6,000 guests a week to drink dry.



The Cloth of Gold was painted, probably for Henry VIII, in 1545

### THE BAWDY BORGIAS

In 1501, Cesare Borgia – son of Pope Alexander VI – hosted a feast in his quarters in the Vatican, a party known as the Banquet of Chestnuts. After the meal, the guests were entertained by the dancing of “50 honest prostitutes” at which point the evening descended into a mass orgy. Historian William Manchester notes that “servants kept score of each man’s orgasms, for the Pope greatly admired virility and measured a man’s machismo by his ejaculative capacity”.



The Shah's chefs prepare a fowl feast

### BIRTHDAY BASH

celebration of 2,500 years of the monarchy was an

Paris to serve a menu of champagne sorbet and 50 roasted peacocks. The Ayatollah Khomeini called it “the devil’s festival”.

Eight years later, he led the revolution that caused the Shah to leave Iran forever.





## A VERY CORDIALE ENTENTE

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Lasting 100 days and presided over by Emperor Titus, the inaugural games of the Flavian Amphitheatre - the arena known as the Colosseum in Rome - were held in AD 80. Aside from executions and gladiatorial battles, an estimated 9,000 animals were killed, according to Roman historian Cassius Dio. Titus apparently wept on the games' final day and reportedly died less than 24 hours later.



## V FOR VICTORY



Residents of Kentwell Close, South London celebrate victory

## WILD TIMES AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Following his inauguration in March 1829, US President Andrew Jackson invited the public to attend a ball at the White House. But, despite having just been elected, Jackson underestimated his popularity and a crowd of 20,000 thirsty well-wishers turned up, squeezing into his new home's rooms and corridors. Much accidental damage ensued, with White House security only able to reduce numbers by taking the punch bowl out onto the front lawn.

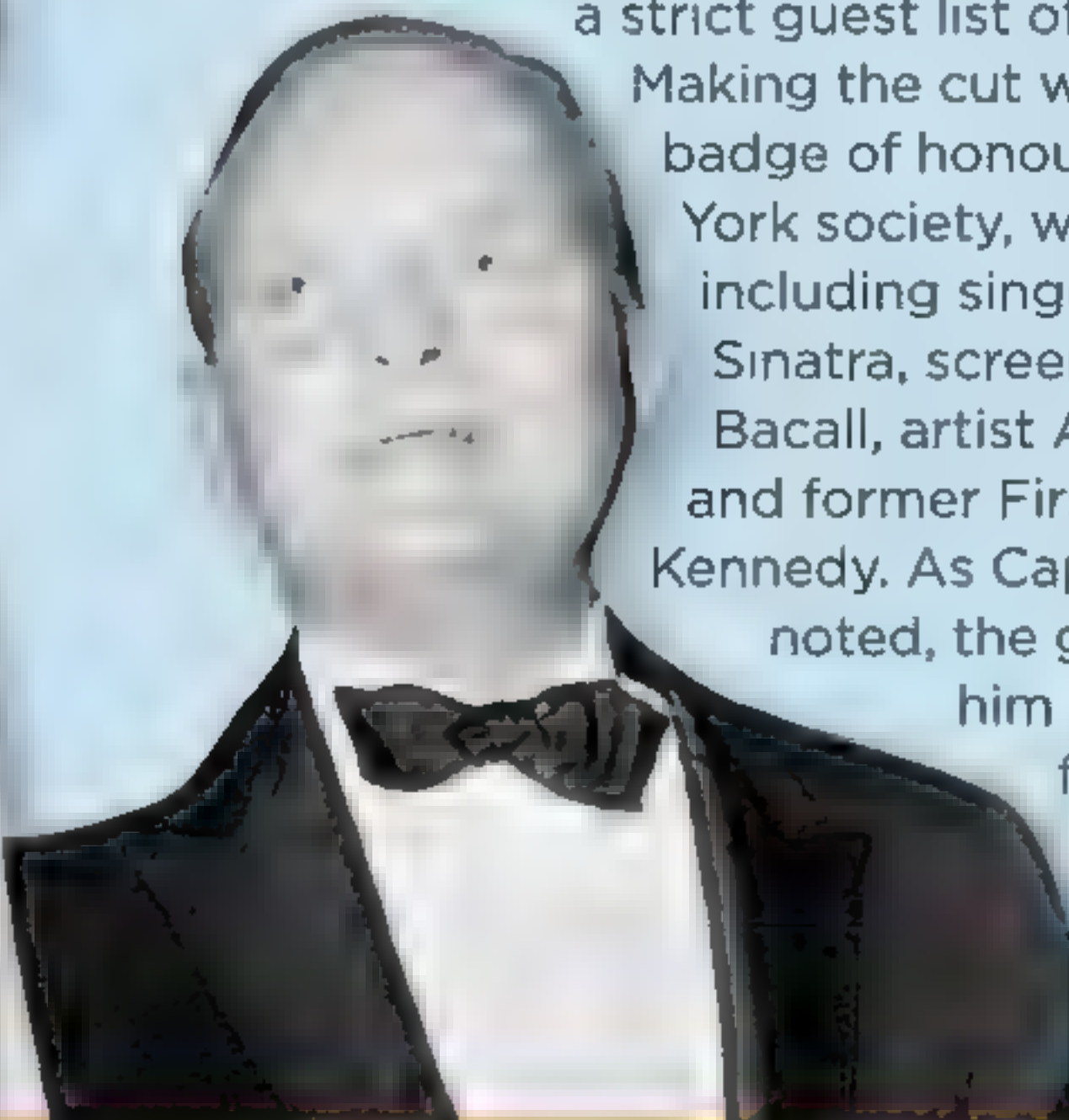


## THE TRUMAN SHOW

In receipt of sizeable royalties from the sales of his 1966 bestseller *In Cold Blood*, the writer Truman Capote hosted the Black and White Ball at New York's Plaza Hotel - a lavish masquerade with a strict guest list of 540 invitees. Making the cut was a true badge of honour within New York society, with attendees including singer Frank Sinatra, screen siren Lauren Bacall, artist Andy Warhol and former First Lady Jackie Kennedy. As Capote himself noted, the guest list made him a few hundred friends but some 15,000 foes.



Capote mingles beside *Washington Post* publisher Katherine Graham



## THE TSAR'S LAST HURRAH

Two years before Russia's revolution of 1905, and amid growing social unrest, Tsar Nicholas II hosted a final decadent gathering. The feast, the last imperial ball in St Petersburg's Winter Palace, occupied three large state rooms, while the guests wore extravagant, priceless antique clothing. As the guests danced and cavorted, Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich observed that "a new and hostile Russia glared through the window".





# KINGS & QUEENS

DO YOU KNOW?

## GOLDEN BOOTS

Henry VIII owned the earliest-known pair of football boots, made from leather in 1526. They cost the king four shillings and were listed among his possessions.

The game in 1540 was so violent that it was banned due to its violent nature at the time.

## HOW DID WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR MARK CHRISTMAS?

Believing he had been appointed by God, William the Conqueror celebrated the Nativity through feasting and prayer, though it's fair to say that his behaviour did not fit with modern ideals of 'peace on Earth and goodwill to all'. As William was crowned at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066, his soldiers (through misunderstanding or just plain ignorance) thought the cheering crowd was threatening the first Norman King of England, so they attacked. They went on to loot and set fire to a number of properties.

Then during Christmas three years later, William was in York overseeing his army as they engaged in the systematic destruction of crops, farms and villages, as well as the slaughter of thousands of men, women and children. The campaign became known as the 'Harrying of the North'. On balance, William was one Christmas guest you could well do without.

## SLAY BELLS

With his soldiers killing thousands of people, William didn't really get into the festive spirit.



# 194.3

## Are **Kings Lear and Cole** based on real characters?



The earliest-known mentions of Kings Lear (or Leir) and Cole (Coilus) appear in Geoffrey of Monmouth's definitive work, *History of the Kings of Britain*. Written in 1136, Geoffrey's sprawling epic chronicles the rulers and key figures of Britain – such as Bladud, Cole, Lear and Cymbeline (the latter two being immortalised by Shakespeare) and Arthur, Merlin and Mordred – until the seventh century.

Although the work's value as 'history' is highly questionable, it doesn't appear to have been wholly made-up. Geoffrey had access to a variety of sources while writing it, some going back as far as the first century BC. Quite where he obtained these, and whether his accounts of Lear and Cole were based on real people is, unfortunately, something that is impossible to say, based on present evidence.



**BEST OF THE BARD**  
King Lear is a Shakespearean favourite but a historical mystery

## WHO DID THE JACOBITES WANT TO DO?



Their name taken from the Latin word for 'James', the Jacobites wanted to restore King James VII and II, along with his Stuart descendants. The Roman Catholic king had been deposed during the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688, through which his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange took power. The passing of the 1701 Act of Settlement forbade Catholics from succeeding, meaning the stronger claim of James's son (James Francis Edward, the Old Pretender) was overlooked and, in 1714, the Elector of Hanover, George, became king.

The Jacobites launched several campaigns from strongholds in Scotland and Ireland, but with no success. The closest they got was the 1745 rebellion led by James II's grandson, the Young Pretender, known as Bonnie Prince Charlie.



## WHAT WAS VICTORIA LIKE **AFTER ALBERT?**



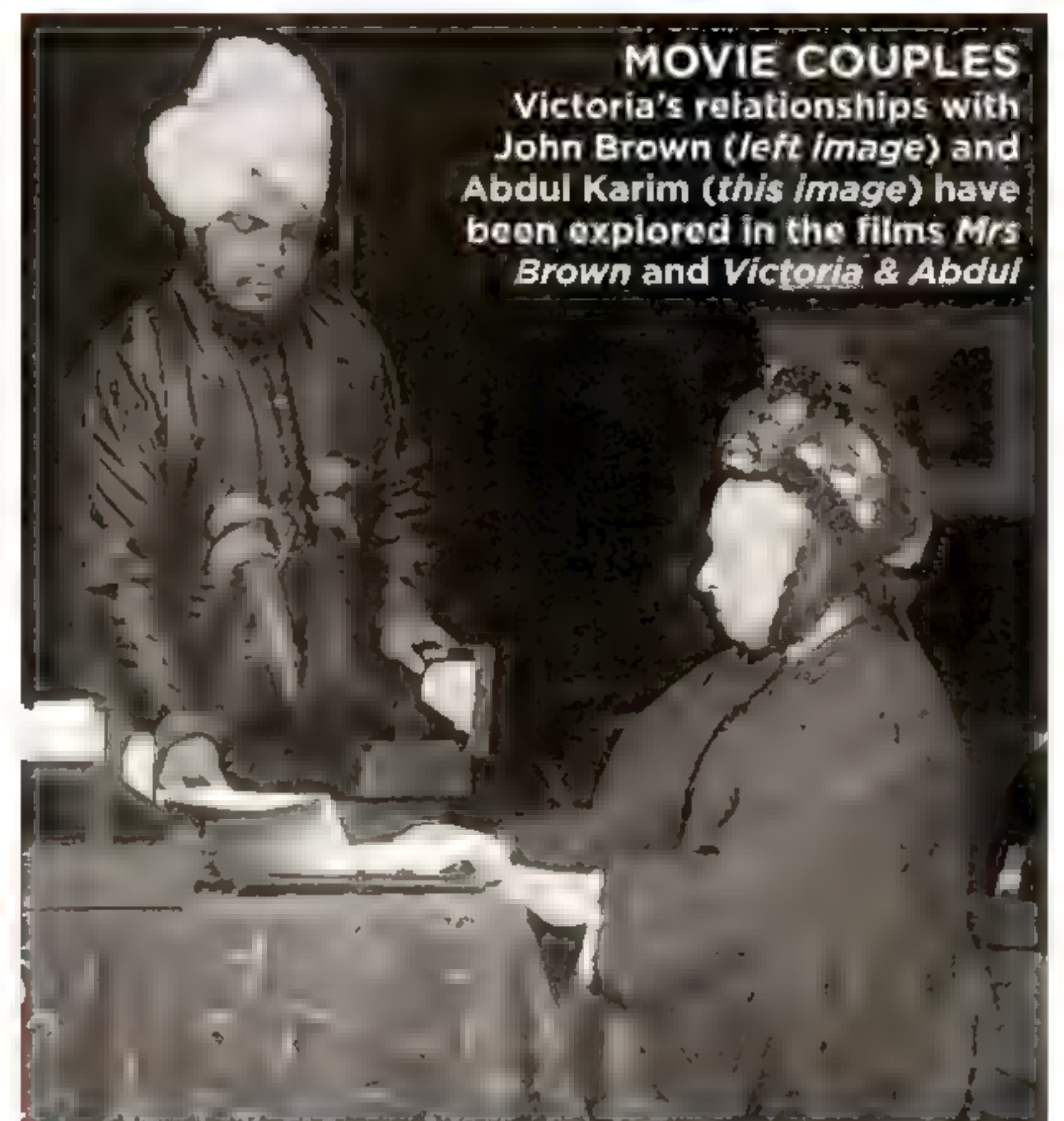
After her beloved husband Albert's death, Victoria fell into a deep depression and mourned for the rest of her long life. But, as the decades passed, she did find solace in the company and friendships of several men.

One was servant John Brown, the hard-drinking son of a Scottish crofter. The friendship caused rifts in the royal family, and Brown's influence over Victoria was much

criticised. Some have speculated that their relationship was more than platonic, with a supposed deathbed confession from Scottish clergyman Norman Macleod that he had married the pair.

Victoria's passion for India also saw her strike up a friendship with another servant, 24-year-old Abdul Karim. Arriving four years after Brown's death, he instantly charmed the queen. Within a

year, he had become Victoria's teacher, instructing her in Urdu and Indian affairs, introducing her to curry and acting as a close confidant. Lavished with gifts and promotions, Karim was even more hated than Brown. After Victoria's death, her eldest son, Bertie, ordered all records of their relationship, including correspondence and photographs, to be destroyed.



**MOVIE COUPLES**  
Victoria's relationships with John Brown (*left image*) and Abdul Karim (*this image*) have been explored in the films *Mrs Brown* and *Victoria & Abdul*



**THE KING FAKER**  
A young Charles Edward Stuart, the Bonnie Prince



## WAS ANYONE EVER ACTUALLY CURED BY THE 'KING'S TOUCH'?



The 'King's Evil', or scrofula, is a swelling in the neck caused by tuberculosis.

Treated with antibiotics today, it was feared for centuries and curable only by the 'King's Touch' (literally, being touched by the monarch).

The practice began in England with Edward the Confessor. Having fallen out of repute after the Reformation

for feeling a bit 'popish', it then enjoyed a resurgence in the reign of Charles II. He supposedly touched more than 92,000 people. There is no evidence anyone was cured but merely to be in the king's presence was important. Receiving specially minted gold 'angel' coins ('touchpieces') as a memento would have kept the crowds flocking.

HEALTH INSURANCE  
Coins issued in a ceremony by James I



## HAVE ALL OF ENGLAND'S MONARCHS BEEN BURIED IN ENGLAND?



Given that the rulers' domains straddled the Channel, it's not surprising that William the Conqueror (Caen, Normandy), Henry II and Richard the Lionheart (both Fontevreau Abbey, France) were laid to rest outside of England. Less memorable is that James II and VII was buried in Paris in 1701, having been exiled following the Glorious Revolution.

Furthermore, when Queen Anne died and James's Catholic heirs were exempted from the succession, Britain ended up with the German-speaking George I. He died in 1727, while on a visit to his native Hanover, and so was buried in Lüneburg. His remains were moved to Herrenhausen in 1957.



**FOREIGN BURIAL**  
The tomb of Richard the Lionheart in France



**PORTRAIT PHOTOSHOPPING**  
A shoulder has been over painted to make it appear higher than the other

## Did **Richard III** really have a hunchback?



Strictly speaking, no. At the time, a deformed body was linked with an evil mind, leading many to argue that the portrayal of Richard III as a hunchback was pure invention as part of the campaign by Tudor writers to blacken his name. So, the revelation that the skeleton uncovered in the Leicester car park in 2012 had a seriously deformed spine caused quite a sensation. It has been revealed, though, that this was a scoliosis (sideways curvature of the spine) rather than a kyphosis (a true hunchback) – although it's thought that one of Richard's shoulders would have been noticeably higher than the other.



**BACK OFF**  
Finding the 'Car Park King' proved he did suffer from a curvature of the spine



45

## Was **Charles II** like his father?

**CHAZ AND CHAZ**  
Sober, obstinate and introverted Charles I versus fun-loving, promiscuous and genial Charlie 2

**🎯** Charles I and his son could hardly have appeared more different. While Charles senior was short, stuttering and Scottish, Charles II was tall ("above two yards high" according to his 1651 wanted poster), urbane and decidedly Mediterranean in looks. Britain's numerous 'Black Boy' pubs are named after him.

The two kings were also different in character. Whereas Charles II enjoyed the company of numerous mistresses, his father appears to have remained completely faithful to his wife, Henrietta Maria. More importantly, whereas the younger Charles was witty and affable, the elder was shy, serious and a poor man-manager. Charles I tended either to go overboard in his affection for those he felt were loyal, or formed strong dislikes towards those he thought opposed his divine right to rule. Charles I refused to compromise, an attitude that led to war and his execution.

Charles II, by stark contrast, was deeply cynical, utterly pragmatic and rarely prepared to risk everything on a point of principle. On return from exile, he steered clear of mass reprisals and wooed his father's old opponents by giving them more power than his friends.



## HOW BIG WAS HENRY VIII'S CODPIECE?

**🎯** Named after the slang word for scrotum, codpieces originally had a practical function – to close an embarrassing gap between stocking-tops. This protective padding, though, slowly became more and more exaggerated as wearers took part in a game of one-upmanship. Without the original garments,

### OVERCOMPENSATION?

The size of Henry's codpiece is infamous, but greatly exaggerated

it's impossible to know exactly how large the royal codpiece would have been. Paintings were created to flatter, not document, the king's prowess. We do, however, have one way of telling the statistics of Henry's vitals.

His 1540 suit of tournament armour still enjoys pride of place at the Tower of London and, weighing a staggering 1.31kg, its gigantic, metal codpiece has always been the star attraction. Visiting 18th-century ladies would stick pins in its lining to 'improve their fertility'.



# Who was the last monarch to **fight in battle**?

**Target** The last British monarch to lead the army was George II, who defeated a French force at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, during the War of the Austrian Succession. Outside of Britain, King Michael I of Romania led a successful coup to oust the pro-Nazi Prime Minister in 1944, but he fired no shots. In which case, perhaps our best answer is King Albert I of Belgium, who commanded his troops against the Germans at the Battle of Yser in 1914.

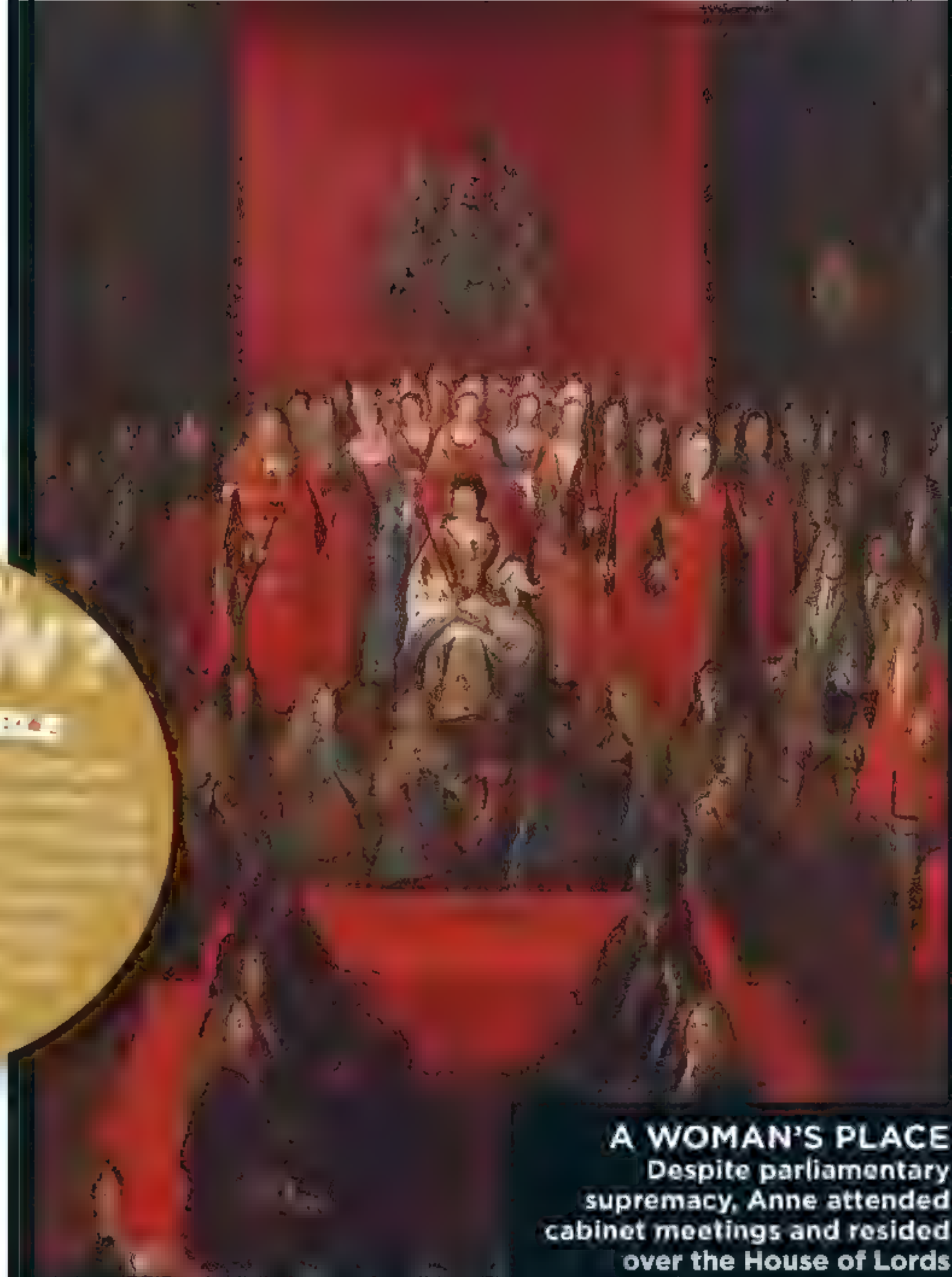
**IN THE TRENCHES**  
King Albert I of Belgium, digging in with his troops, made the front page on 13 December 1914

## Le Petit Journal

ADMINISTRATION 5 CENT. SUPPLÉMENT ILLUSTRE 5 CENT. ABONNEMENTS  
41, RUE LAFAYETTE, 41  
Les abonnements se font par mandat  
On s'abonne sans frais  
dans tous les bureaux de poste  
25<sup>ème</sup> Année  
Numéro 1251  
DIMANCHE 13 DÉCEMBRE 1914  
PRIX DE VENTE: 5 CENT.  
PRIX DE VENTE: 5 CENT.  
PRIX DE VENTE: 5 CENT.



LE ROI DES BELGES ET SON ÉTAT-MAJOR TRAVAILLENT



**A WOMAN'S PLACE**  
Despite parliamentary supremacy, Anne attended cabinet meetings and resided over the House of Lords

# WHO RULED WHEN THE **ACTS OF UNION** WERE PASSED?

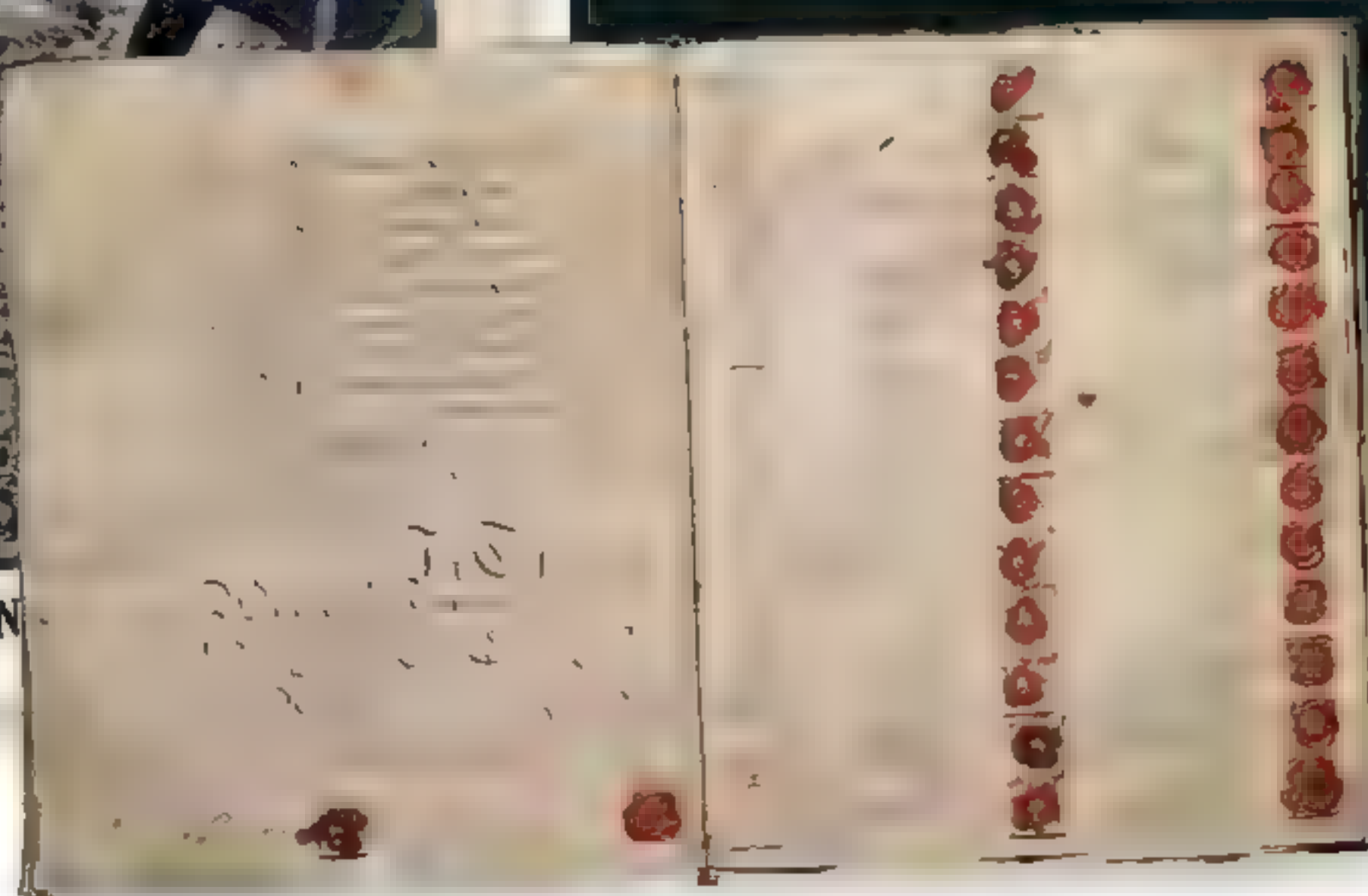
**Target** Since the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, England and Scotland had been ruled by the same monarch, but it took another century before the countries united into a single kingdom. Anne (r1702-14) proved an ardent advocate of union, announcing in her inaugural speech to Parliament that it was "very necessary". That need became greater when the Scottish passed a law in 1704, allowing them to ignore the Act of Settlement and name their own successor. The English retort was the Alien Act, a draconian measure that threatened Scots living south of the border.

But both sides had reason to stop the petty back-and-forth – the Scottish needed the economic security England could provide. The English, meanwhile, wanted to make the border safe from potential attacks from the French (in case any nostalgic Scots looked to reignite the 'Auld Alliance') and put an end to the succession crisis.

Anne was proactive in bringing the countries together, appointing commissioners to negotiate the union. It took them just three

months in 1706 to agree on a treaty, leading to the passage of the historic law by mid-1707.

Not everyone was happy with Scotland coming under the yoke of England, however, as it meant there would only be one Parliament – in Westminster – and ensured the Hanoverian dynasty would succeed Anne. The argument over Scottish independence still rages on.





## WHAT HAPPENED TO HAROLD'S BODY AFTER HASTINGS?

**Target** Tales of Harold's widow, Edith Swannesha, combing the battlefield for the king remain legends. In truth, his body was so mutilated that he could only be identified by secret marks on his skin. The people of Harold's birthplace, Bosham in West Sussex, still verbally battle with residents of Waltham Abbey, Essex – which he re-founded in 1060 – for his final resting place.



**WHAT LIES BENEATH?** This marker stands outside Waltham Abbey, Essex, but is Harold beneath it?

## Who executed King Charles I?

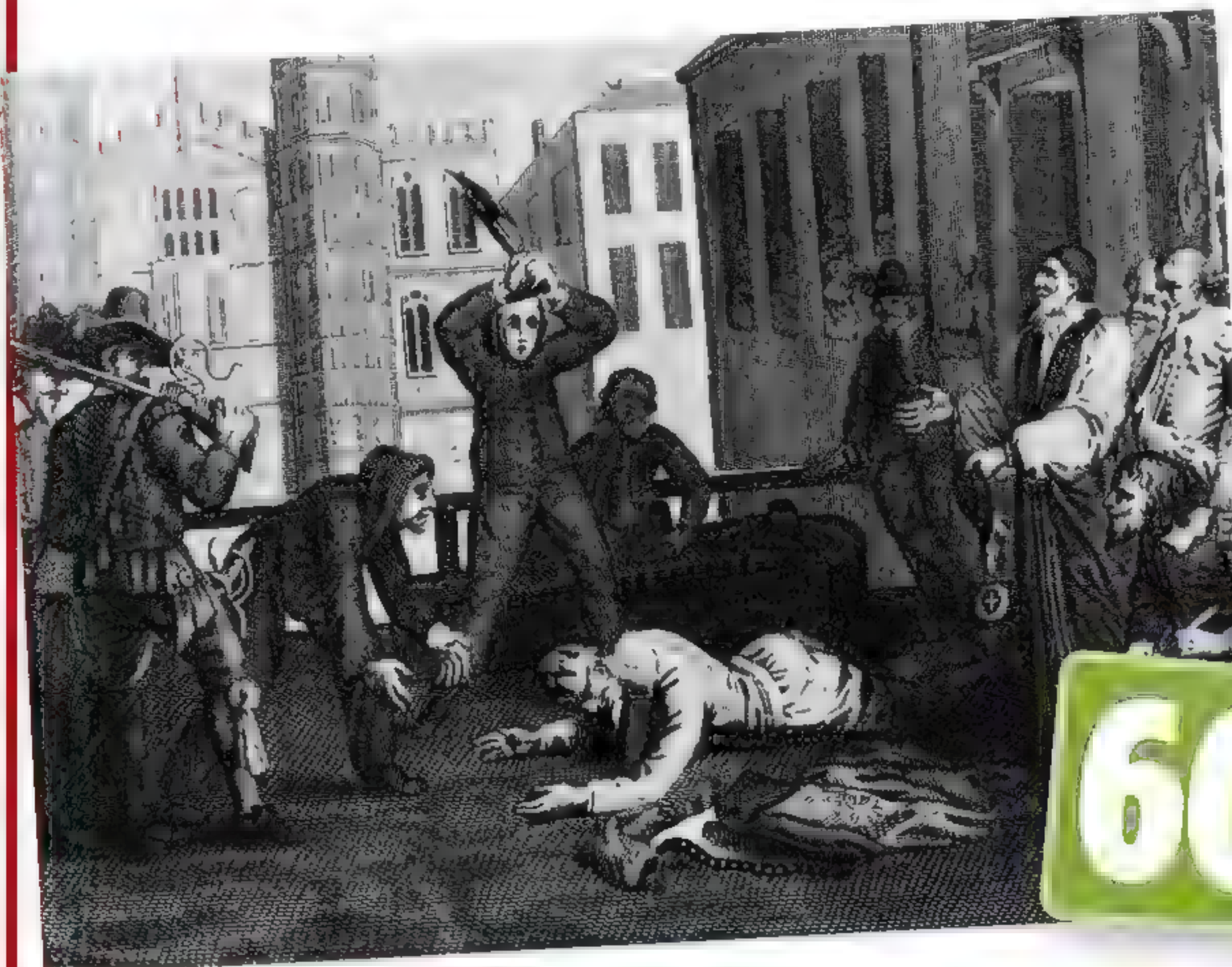
**ENIGMA OF THE EXECUTIONER**  
We may never know who chopped off Charles's head

**Target** No one wanted to be the man who chopped off a king's head. Even London's Common Hangman, Richard Brandon, turned down the job, despite lucrative offers. So on the fateful day, 30 January 1649, both the executioner and their assistant were heavily disguised with false hair and beards. At the traditional moment when the head of the deceased is held up, accompanied by the cry of

"Behold the head of a traitor!", Charles I's head was brandished in silence so that the assistant's voice couldn't be recognised.

That didn't stop rumours, including, somewhat ludicrously, that it had been Oliver Cromwell himself. A popular theory held the man was French – they were renowned as the best head removers in Europe – but, to this day, we can't be

sure who wielded the blade. A 'confession' after Brandon's death 'admitted' it had been him, after being paid £30, but this was likely a forgery. Whoever did the deed was certainly a professional. When Charles's body was exhumed in 1813, the head was found to have been severed by a single blow.



**60** The execution of King Charles I was a pivotal moment in English history.

## What's the oldest statue in London?

**SAXON SUPERSTAR**  
Alfred defeated the Vikings and is the only English monarch known as 'the Great'

**Target** The oldest freestanding statue in London is thought to be of Alfred the Great, now residing in leafy Trinity Church Square, Southwark. Most theories date the figure of the King of Wessex to the late 14th century, where it was one of a group of eight ordered by Richard II for Westminster Hall in 1395 – five of which were rather inconveniently lost by Sir John Soane whilst clearing the front in 1825.

If, as some scholars claim, Alfred dates only to the 18th century, the crown goes to a round-faced, sweetly-smiling Queen



Elizabeth I, erected outside St Dunstan-in-the-West on Fleet Street, which was removed from the City's old Lud Gate in 1760. With '1586' carved into the base, it is the only remaining statue of the Queen carved during her lifetime.

London does, however, have sculptures dating much further back. At the entrance to Sotheby's auction house in New Bond Street, the Ancient Egyptian Sekhmet surveys all who enter. Sold in the 1880s for £40 but never collected, the bust, carved in black basalt and depicting the goddess as a lioness, dates to around 1320 BC.



# TOP 10

## WHAT ARE THE MOST FAMOUS LOST TREASURES YET TO BE FOUND?

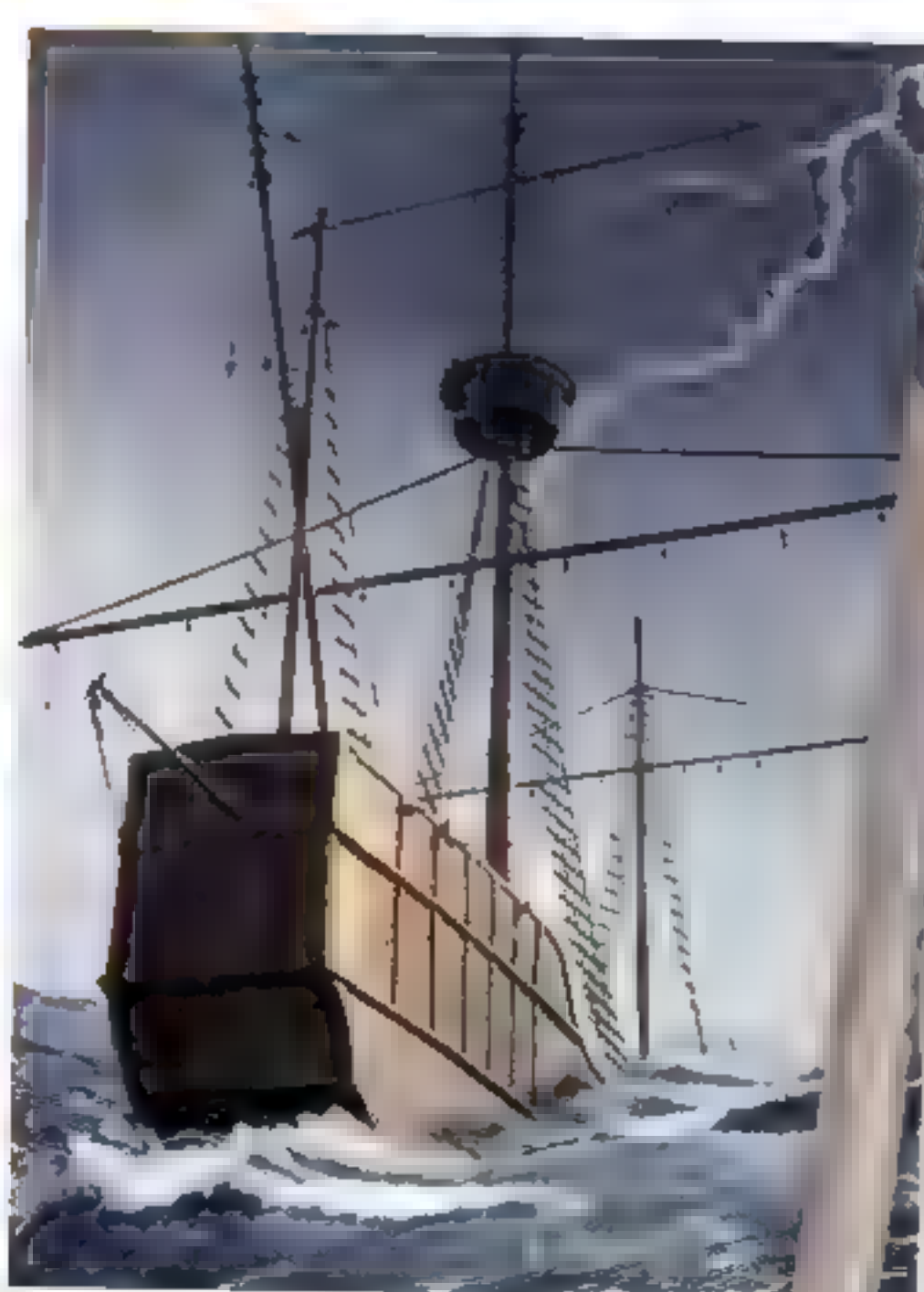


### THE AMBER ROOM

RUSSIA

designed with gold, amber

In 1941, the Nazis looted the piece to Königsberg (now reconstruction. Then as the



### FLOR DE LA MAR

STRAIT OF MALACCA, INDONESIA/MALAYSIA

Perhaps the richest vessel ever lost at sea, *Flor de la Mar* (Flower of the Sea) contained artefacts stolen from the Portuguese colonies, as well as gifts from the King of Siam. Although the ship was in an awful condition, she was entrusted with carrying the valuable cargo back to Portugal, via Goa. Unfortunately for the colonists, the tropical storms of Southeast Asia closed in one night, and the ship sank near Sumatra in 1511.

### HONJO MASAMUNE

JAPAN

In Imperial Japan, swordsmiths were greatly respected craftsmen, and Masamune was the most revered of all. After World War II, American troops forced Japanese households to give up all weapons, including their ancestral ones – so the Honjo Masamune was lost. Some say this priceless sword is now located in the US.

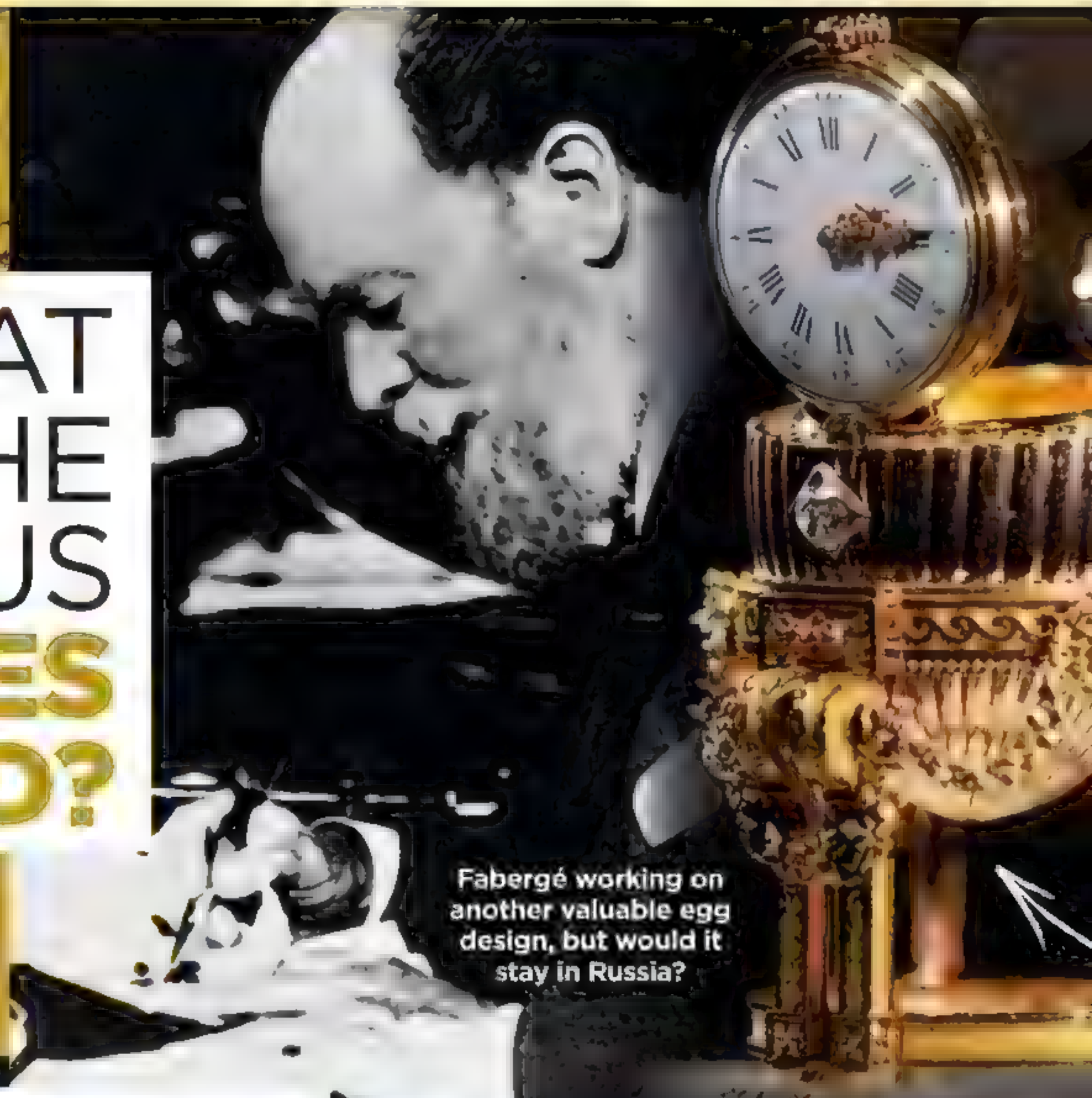
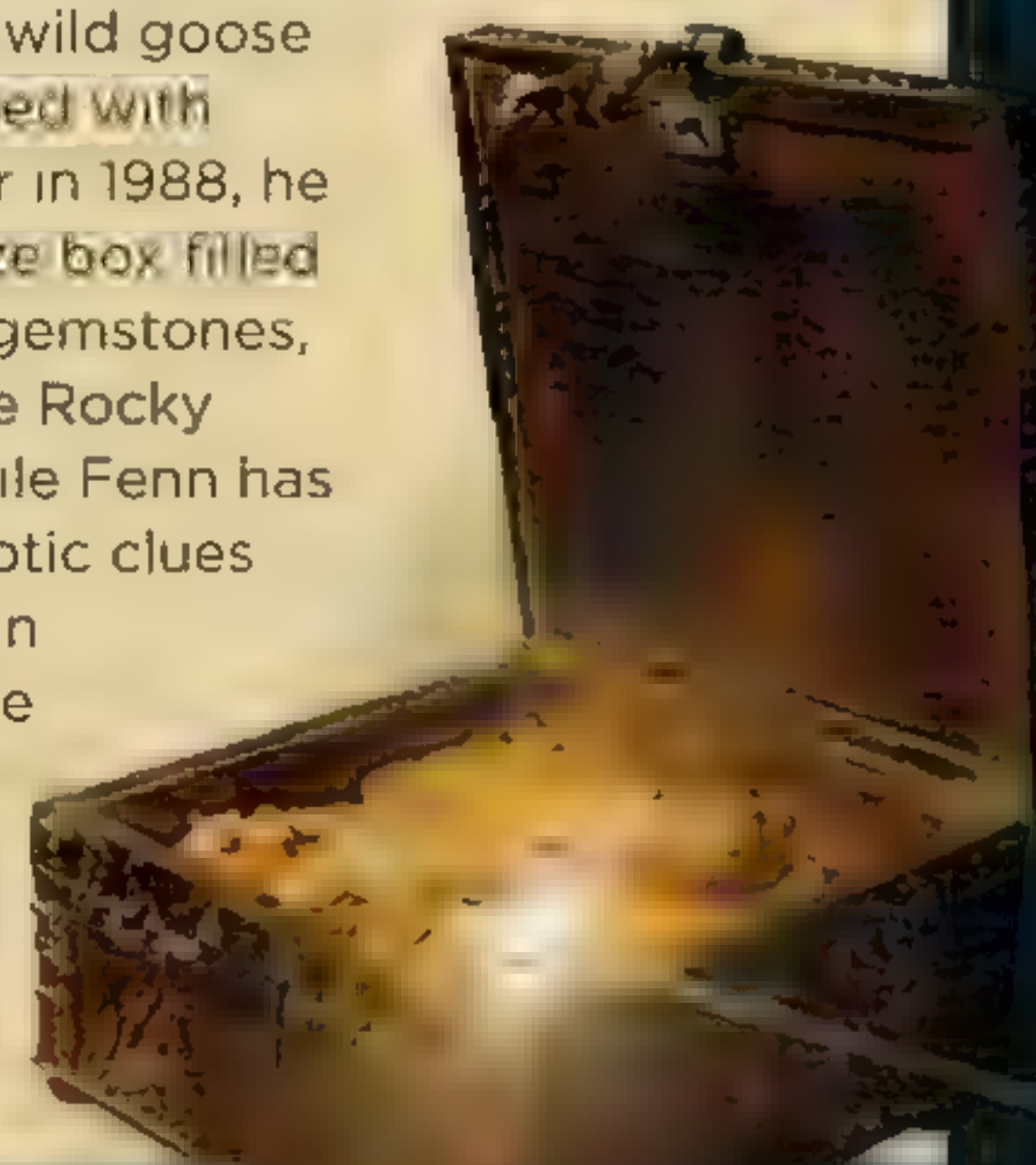


Allied soldiers take stock of family heirlooms

### FENN'S TREASURE

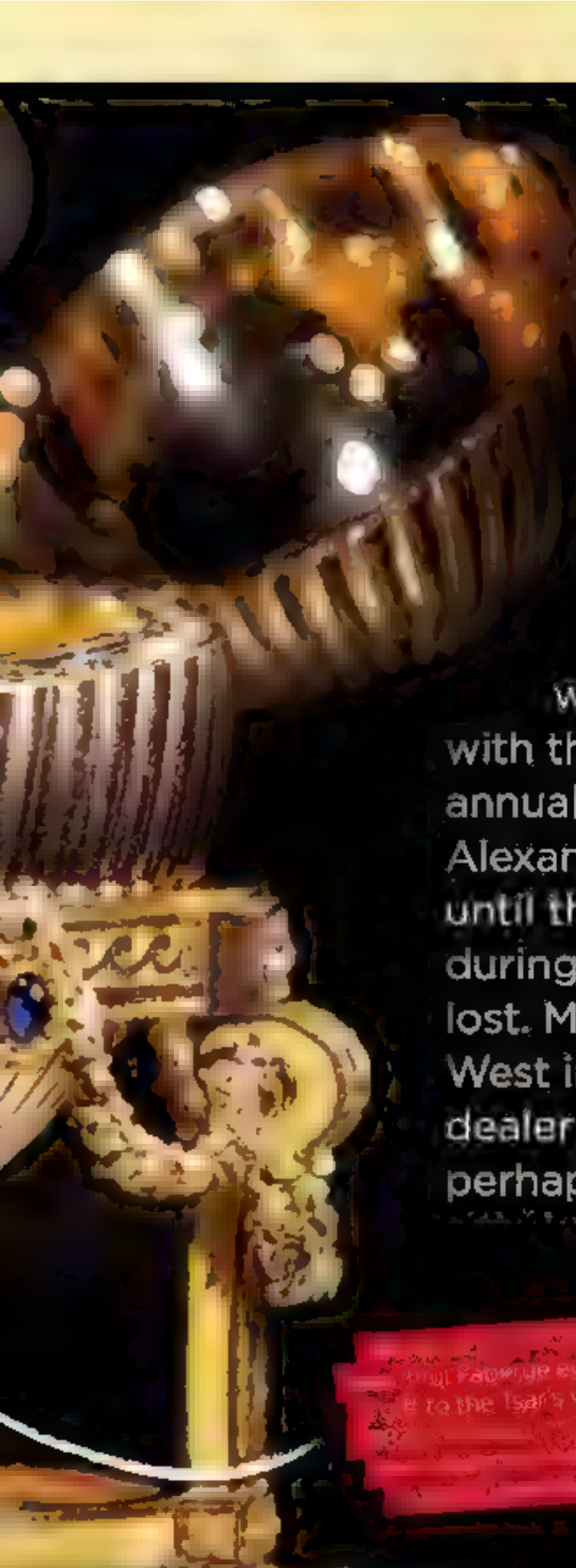
THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, US

Eccentric millionaire Forrest Fenn decided that, when faced with death, he would send the world on a wild goose chase. Diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1988, he crafted a bronze box filled with gold and gemstones, and hid it in the Rocky Mountains. While Fenn has dished out cryptic clues – such as “Put in below the home of Brown” – every now and again, the chest has yet to be found.



Fabergé working on another valuable egg design, but would it stay in Russia?





## THE LOST FABERGÉ EGGS WORLDWIDE

In 1885, Tsar Alexander III commissioned jeweller Peter Carl Fabergé to make a beautiful, bejewelled egg as a gift to his wife, Empress Maria. She was so delighted with the gift that the intricate eggs became an annual tradition, and Fabergé was kept on retainer. Alexander's son, Nicholas II, continued the custom until the outbreak of the Russian Revolution of 1917 during which seven of the original 50 eggs were lost. More eggs were sold by the Soviets to the West in jewellery auctions. However, a scrap metal dealer in the US found one in an antiques shop, so perhaps there's one lying in your attic!

One Fabergé egg was given to the Tsar's wife in 1894.

The Incan Atlantis Paititi is said to be built from gold.



## LOST CITY OF PAITITI

SOUTH AMERICA

When the Spanish

century they expected to find vast treasure awaiting them, but were

ruins. In such a dangerous part of the jungle, many explorers have died in pursuit of the legendary city filled with wealth

## DUTCH SCHULTZ'S SWAG

NEW YORK, US

On his deathbed, German-American gangster 'Dutch' Schultz started talking of a safe, in which he placed \$50 million of his ill-gotten gains. He took his loot into the Catskill Mountains to ensure that no other mobster would get their hands on it. The safe is supposed to be buried in Phoenicia, New York State, with an X marked on a nearby tree. Each year, treasure hunters trawl the locality for Schultz's buried millions.



Paranoid gangster Dutch Schultz met a grisly end, but his legacy lives on



## OAK ISLAND MYSTERY

NOVA SCOTIA

Local legend claims that the notorious pirate Captain Kidd hid £2 million worth of booty in a pit, and prevented anyone from getting it by building shafts that

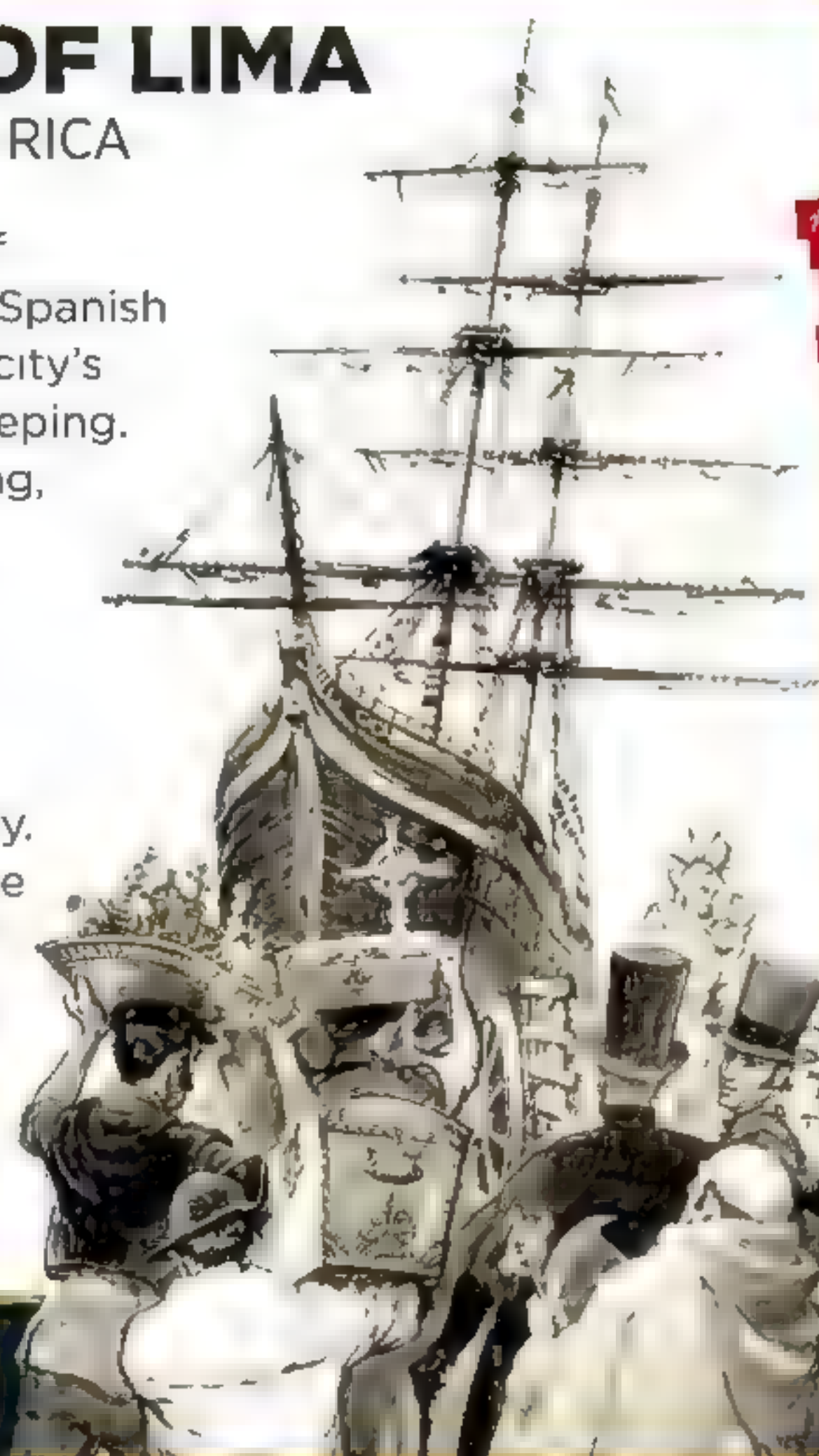
frequently flood the hole. Sceptics argue that this is a natural phenomenon, but unusual items found inside the pit suggest otherwise. Even former US President Franklin D Roosevelt tried to unearth the famed cash.



## TREASURE OF LIMA

COCOS ISLAND, COSTA RICA

During the Peruvian War of Independence in 1820, the Spanish governor of Lima sent the city's riches to Mexico for safekeeping. The ship carrying everything, though, suffered a mutiny. The captain and his crew reportedly went to Cocos Island to hide the loot, and planned to return for it at the earliest opportunity. They were captured and the captain apparently offered to tell the Spanish the location of the chests. Upon arrival at Cocos, he escaped into the jungle, never to be seen again.



## THE COPPER SCROLL

WEST BANK, MIDDLE EAST

This Dead Sea Scroll, made just after the Biblical era, gives tantalising clues to locations where family valuables may be buried. Unfortunately, the landscape has changed dramatically since AD 100, and clues such as "In the gutter, which is in the bottom of the tank" are no longer useful. Sounds like the plot of a new Indiana Jones movie...






# MEDIEVAL TIMES

DO YOU  
KNOW?  
SQUAT AND SQUEAL

**ON THE THRONE**  
Suits of armour were vital for the battlefield, but vexing in the latrine

## HOW DID KNIGHTS IN ARMOUR GO TO THE TOILET?

 The honest answer is that we're not really sure. Armour changed a lot over the centuries – William the Conqueror wore just a long mail shirt when he invaded in 1066, so answering nature's call would have been relatively simple. It was a very different prospect, however, with the development of full plate armour by Italian and German craftsmen in the 1400s.

Suits of armour still didn't have a metal plate covering the knight's crotch or buttocks as this made riding a horse difficult. Those

areas would be protected by strong metal skirts flowing out around the front hips (faulds) and buttocks (culet). Under this dangled a short chainmail shirt to prevent an enemy jabbing anything sharp upwards between the legs. And beneath that, a knight wore quilted cotton leggings so his limbs wouldn't chafe. To stop the steel leg plates sliding down painfully onto the ankles, they had to be held up by a waist belt or by being attached to the torso plate. While wearing all that heavy gear, a knight desperate for

the toilet would have most likely needed the assistance of his squire to lift or remove the rear culet so he could squat down.

The fact, however, that the leg armour was often suspended tightly from the waist belt – worn over the leggings – might have required it to be detached first before a chivalric chap could comfortably drop his trousers. This would have been a particular nuisance if the knight was suffering from dysentery. It was likely that he may have simply chosen to soil himself.



# Was **Magna Carta** signed?



**BEAR THUG**  
'Berserker' may mean 'bear coat', referring to their animalistic ferocity in battle

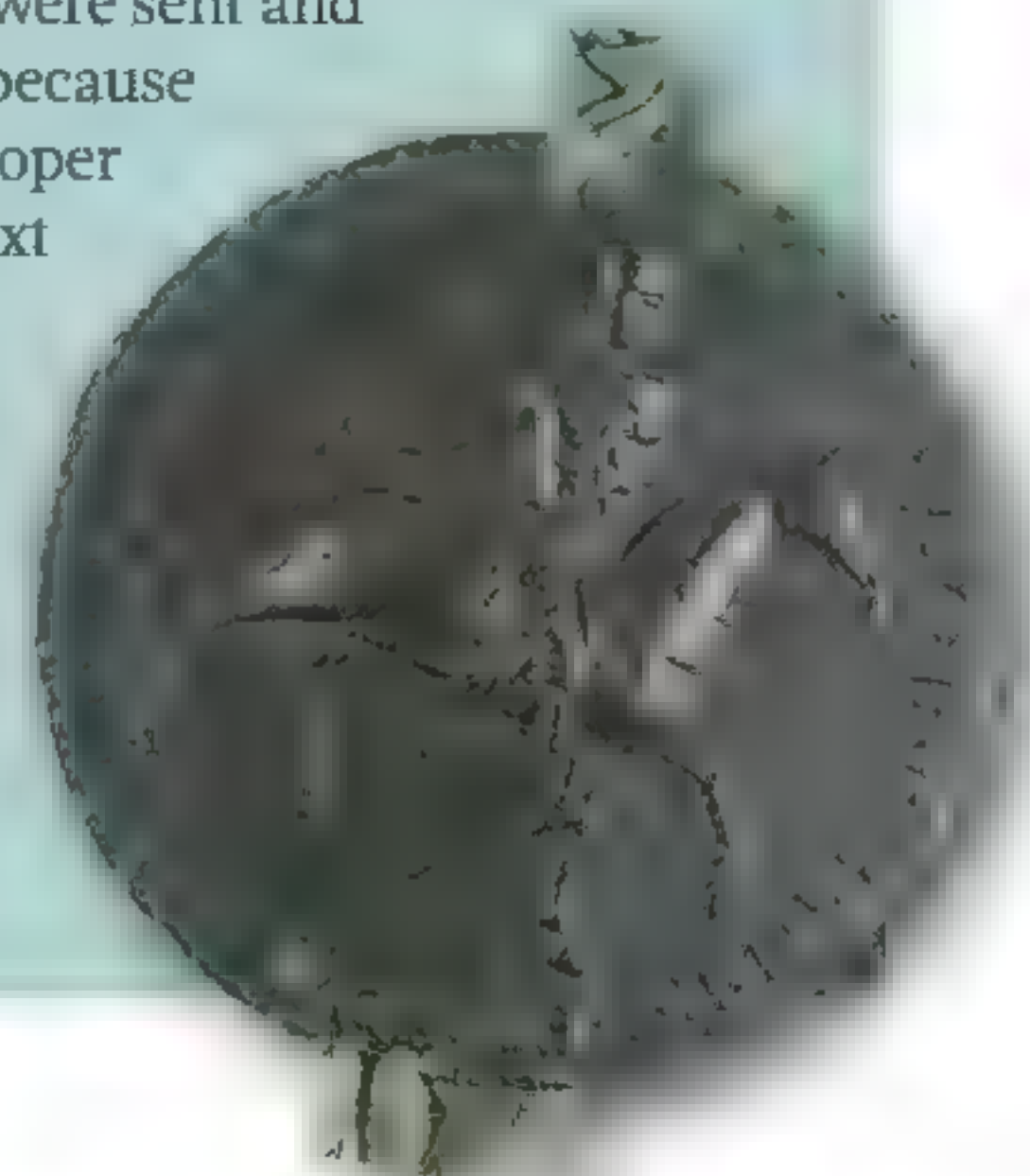
## WHERE DOES 'GOING BERSERK' COME FROM?

Meaning falling into a frenzy or fury, the phrase 'to go berserk' has only appeared widely since the early 19th century, but the origins do go back much further. It refers to the Old Norse warriors known as the Berserkers, who were famed for their strength, rage and reckless abandon on the battlefield. The earliest surviving mention of them dates to the late ninth century.

Yes it was. It is true that images of King John signing Magna Carta with a quill are misleading – he didn't actually put his name to the document – but we need to bear in mind the meaning of the phrase 'to sign' has changed over the centuries. Coming from the Latin *signum*, meaning a mark, it originally meant to authenticate something by attaching a seal to it. That was exactly what John did.

It is worth noting that there wasn't just one Magna Carta. Numerous copies were made (of which four remain) and circulated around the country after the seal had been added by royal officials. So, although it wasn't by John, Magna Carta was indeed signed. As time went on, more and more letters were sent and documents agreed to, but because most people didn't have proper seals they had to do the next best thing and add their names, or signatures.

**KILL THE QUILL**  
There was no writing of the royal name, but John did 'sign' the document with his seal



## WHAT WAS A **VIKING WEDDING** LIKE?



Most sources for pagan Viking customs come from the later, Christianised 13th century, which makes their reliability questionable. Generally, it is believed that a wedding involved three days of feasting, boozing, animal sacrifices and boisterous sport. The ceremony itself may have been held on a Friday, in honour of the goddess Frigga, and during the summer when travel was easier.

The bride probably didn't wear a special wedding dress, but might have sported a headdress. The groom may have presented his bride with an ancestral sword and, in return, she may have given him a new one. It's plausible rings were exchanged too.

Viking society didn't do romance, though. Marriages were arranged, the best kind of bride was a virgin and her 'bride-price' was payable to her father by the groom's family. The father of the bride then paid a dowry to his daughter, which she kept for life. Despite them being 'bought', Viking women were equal under law and could divorce their husbands. That said, a man could take several wives.

**DANISH DIVORCE**  
Viking wives had the legal right to jettison their errant husbands





Drawing blood was used to treat pretty much everything, using either leeches or the painful method of cutting the skin and draining the blood into a bowl.

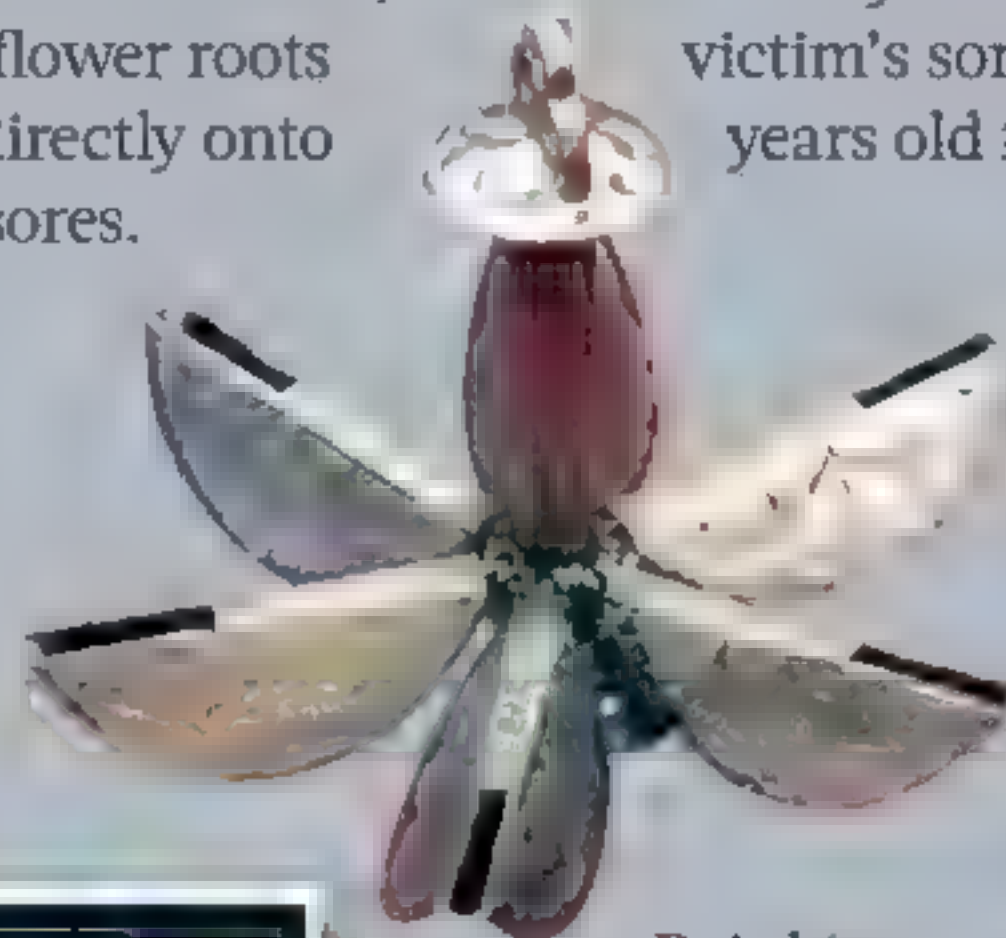
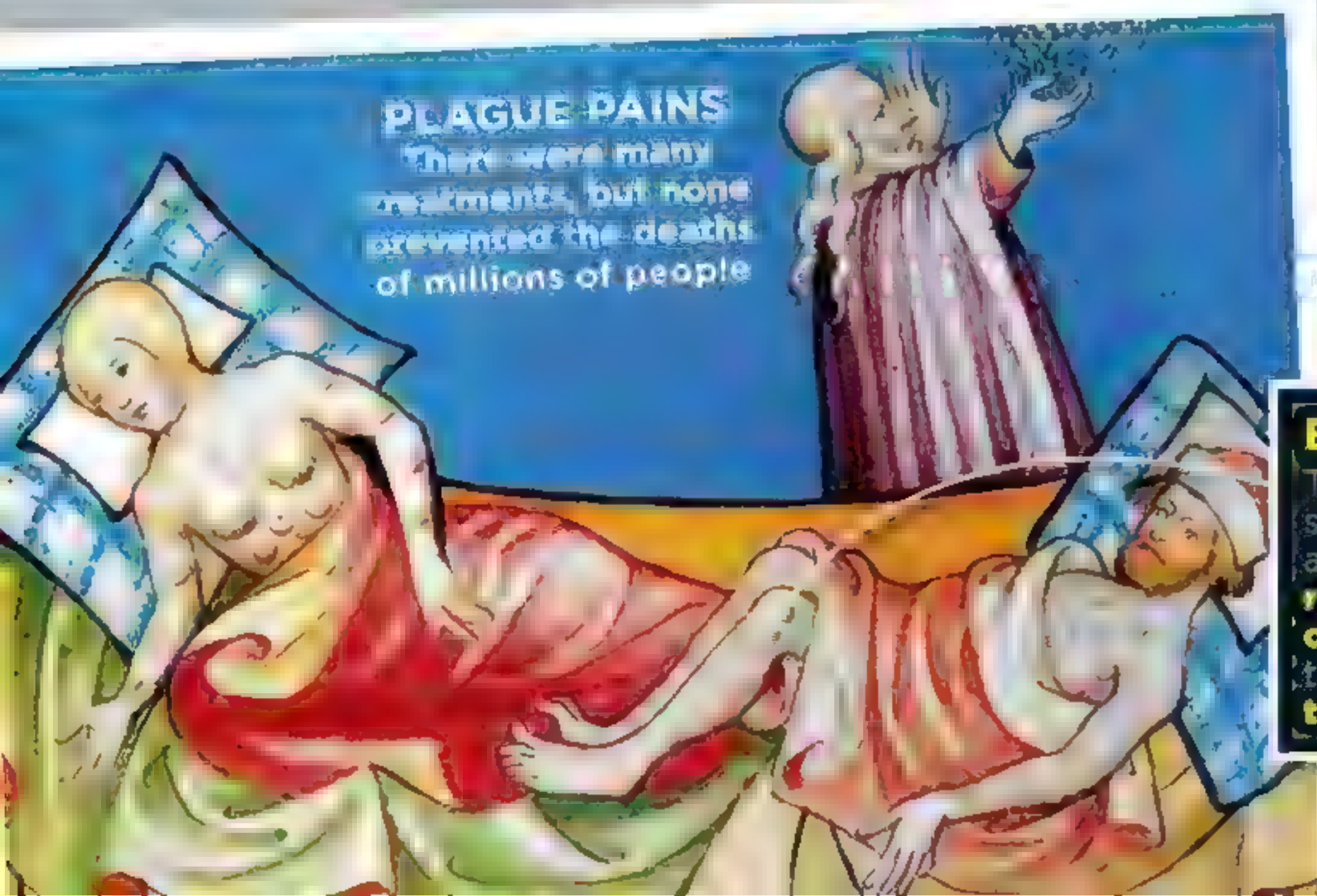
Once the plague was contracted, a simple way of treating the buboes was to bathe in urine, or rub a mixture of tree resin, flower roots and faeces directly onto the oozing sores.

The sticky substance would be applied to a victim's sores, but it had to be at least ten years old for it to work, apparently.

As people were scared that the infection was passed in the air, some decided to live in the sewers in the hope of avoiding the disease.

Drinking arsenic or mercury, sitting next to constantly burning fires, abstaining from meat, bathing and sex – people would go to whatever lengths they thought would save them.

This image is believed to show plague victims, although, they are **riddled with boils all over** the Black Death typically confined them **to the groin and armpits.**





## WHERE DOES THE IDEA OF THE HORNED VIKING HELMET COME FROM?

❯ No evidence of a horned helmet has been found in Viking archaeology, yet it remains the stereotypical motif of Norse warriors. It seems to have sprung from the fertile imagination of 19th-century writers, poets and artists such as Carl

Emil Doepler, who created an impressive set of winged and horned headgear for Richard Wagner's opera *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in 1876. Such helmets would have offered little protection, and would have proved impractical on the battlefield.



## WHEN DID WE FIRST USE THE PHRASE 'MEDIEVAL ERA'?

❯ Most people living in the Middle Ages wouldn't have used that label – understandably, because how could they know they'd end up as the meat in the sandwich between ancient and modern times? The concept of medievalism emerged later on, inspired by the Italian poet Petrarch. He lived in the 1300s and felt his world was a cultural "Dark Age", inferior to the greatness of the prior Greco-Roman world.

Thankfully, the ensuing 1400s produced more great minds, allowing the humanist scholar Leonardo Bruni to christen it a new golden era – the so-called Renaissance. Deciding this marked a new phase for humanity, Bruni suggested history could be divided into the three categories: ancient, middle and modern. Confusingly, however, the Late Middle Ages (often classified as 1300–1500) actually overlaps the Renaissance (1350–1600s), meaning Bruni was himself a medieval man! It's also worth noting that the word 'medieval' is not even medieval creation, but a 19th-century Anglicisation of Bruni's Latin phrase, "Medium Aevum".



**GOLDEN MAN**  
Scholar Leonardo Bruni believed he lived in a golden age

## Did defenders of castles really **pour boiling oil** down on attackers?

❯ Clearly, defenders facing death if their castle fell would have used whatever came to hand to drive off their enemies. The Jewish defenders of Yodfat in AD 67 poured hot oil on the Roman besiegers, and it is mentioned as being used against the English at Orléans in 1428–29. However, oil was valuable so was probably only used occasionally – there were plenty of cheaper alternatives. Defenders could hurl down rocks, pieces of their own wall, boiling water or heated sand. Attackers may also be blinded with quicklime, a kind of mustard gas that became caustic when it got

wet. They could be burned by Greek fire, a mix of resin, pitch, sulphur and naphtha, notoriously hard to extinguish. In 1216, the defenders of Beaucaire Castle lowered a sack of sulphur, which drove off the attackers with its noxious fumes. However, the prize for ingenuity goes to the defenders of Chester, who in AD 905 allegedly inflicted a stinging defeat on the Vikings by dropping the town's beehives on them.



**GREASY TACTICS**  
Hot oil was just one way to drive off attackers



# WHERE HAS CLAIMED TO BE THE HOME OF THE HOLY GRAIL?

**A**lthough popular versions of the story point towards the chalice being transported to England, committed Holy Grail hunters and would-be Indiana Jones types have chased it all over the world. Every perceived clue has been painstakingly pursued, while long-shot leads and far-fetched theories have led those looking for the relic to some unlikely corners.

Over 200 churches and locations have laid claim to having current or historic possession of

either, or both, the Holy Grail or Holy Chalice (many people contend there are actually two vessels – one used by Christ during the Last Supper while another caught his blood at the crucifixion). Having a semi plausible relic

or a good miracle story can generate a boom in tourism for out-of-the-way destinations, and as public obsession with the Grail tale shows no sign of abating, it remains big business.

**150,000**

The number of annual pilgrims to the Holy Grail, according to the Guinness Book of Records. The number of pilgrims to the Holy Grail is estimated to be around 150,000.

**HOLY ABODE**  
The 17cm-tall València Chalice takes pride of place

## CATEDRALE DE VALENCIA VALENCIA, SPAIN

The València Chalice is housed in its very own consecrated chapel. The agate cup was reportedly taken by Saint Peter to Rome in the first century, and then to Huesca in Spain by Saint Lawrence in the third century. Some Spanish archaeologists say the cup was produced in a Palestinian or Egyptian workshop between the fourth century BC and the first century.

## METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART NEW YORK, US

Current home of the Antioch Chalice, a silver and gold double cup design ornament, touted as the Holy Chalice when it was recovered in Antioch, Turkey, just before World War I. The museum has always admitted that this claim was ambitious. The relic was recently outed as a standing lamp, not a chalice, believed to have been made in the sixth century.

## OAK ISLAND

NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

One of the more creative claims has the Holy Grail stashed in a large pit on a 57-hectare island in Lunenburg County, on the south shore of Nova Scotia. This is where a group of exiled Knights Templar members are rumoured to have buried treasure, including the chalice and even the Ark of the Covenant. A Templar tomb has supposedly been found on the island.

**A LIKELY STORY**  
The Holy Grail is said to be hidden on Oak Island.

## BASILICA OF SAN ISIDORO DE LEÓN

LEÓN, SPAIN

Home to the Chalice of Doña Urraca, a jewel-encrusted onyx goblet identified as the Holy Grail by author-researchers Margarita Torres and José Ortega del Río in their 2014 book, *The Kings of the Grail*. The chalice has been in the Basilica since the 11th century, after apparently being transported to Cairo by Muslim travellers. It was later given to an emir on the Spanish coast who had helped famine victims in Egypt, then passed to King Ferdinand I of Leon as a peace offering by an Andalusian ruler. Carbon dating suggests the chalice was made between 200 BC and AD 100.



## CATTEDRALE DI SAN LORENZO

GENOVA, ITALY

The Italian cathedral is home to the Genoa Chalice, once a hot contender for the Holy Grail though to be made from pure emerald. That is, until it was transported to Paris after Napoleon conquered Italy and came back broken – revealing that the emerald was in fact green glass. This news would have come as a disappointment to the Genoese soldiers, who named it as their chief target when they defeated the Moors and sacked Almeria in a ferocious conflict in 1147.

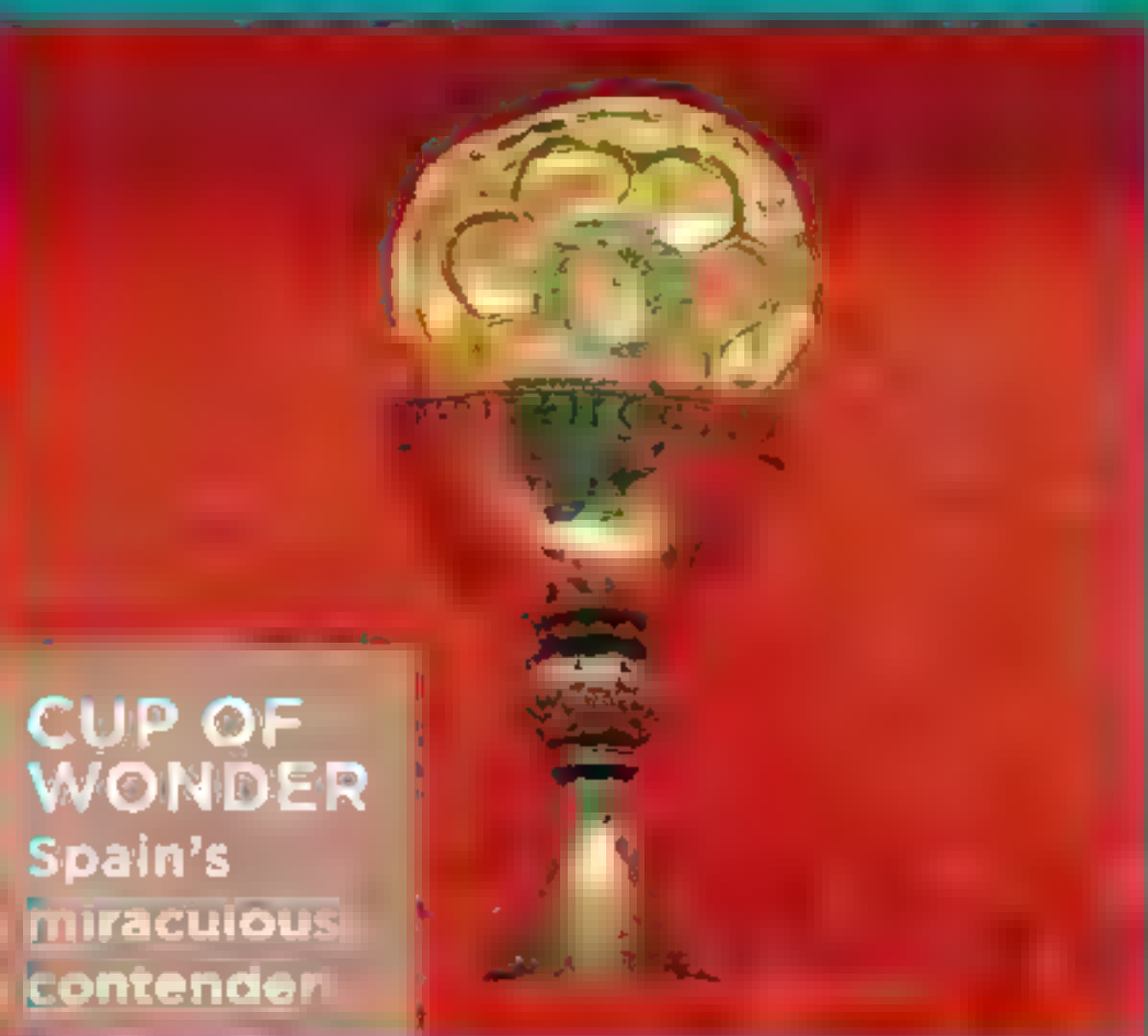




## O'CEBREIRO

GALICIA, SPAIN

This tiny town found itself suddenly magnified on the map, when, in the 14th century, a miracle happened in the local church, Santa Maria, causing the population to believe they had in their possession the Holy Grail. In the midst of the consecration, a peasant entered the church, emerging from a snowstorm raging outside. The priest scolded him for coming so far just for a little bread and wine and, at that moment, so the story goes, the bread and wine literally turned into flesh and blood.



**CUP OF WONDER**  
Spain's miraculous contender

## MONTSERRAT

CATALONIA, SPAIN

The Benedictine monks of Montserrat themselves claim that this monastery is actually the real Castle of Munsalvaesche, where the Grail was entrusted to Titurel, the first Grail King, in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*.

## CHÂTEAU DE MONTSEGUR

LANGUEDOC, FRANCE

Another candidate for the Grail castle from von Eschenbach's *Parzival*, this ruined castle is a former stronghold of the Cathars – a Christian sect once believed to be keepers of the Grail. Shortly before this fortress was razed by a Catholic army in the 13th century, several Cathars allegedly escaped carrying a mysterious 'treasure', which many believe to have been the Grail.

### CATHARS' KEEP

Did the former fortress once house the Grail?



## SACRED STASH SITE?

Beneath Temple Mount in Jerusalem, some believe there could be a whole host of holy relics



## THE JERUSALEM CHALICE

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

In the seventh century, a Gaulish monk named Arculf recorded seeing a vessel he believed to be the Holy Chalice contained within a reliquary in a chapel near Jerusalem, between the basilica of Golgotha and the Martyrium. This is the earliest-known report of the Grail after the crucifixion, and the only known mention of it being seen in the Holy Land. The fate of the chalice he described is unknown. It has also been claimed that the Grail is hidden with other holy relics in the vast underground sewer complex of Jerusalem, beneath the legendary Solomon's Temple.

## SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA

HUESCA, SPAIN

A monastery where the Holy Grail was allegedly sent for protection when the Iberian Peninsula was invaded by Muslim forces. It's thought to be the inspiration for 'Corbenic', the castle of the Holy Grail in the Vulgate Cycle.

## PEEL CASTLE

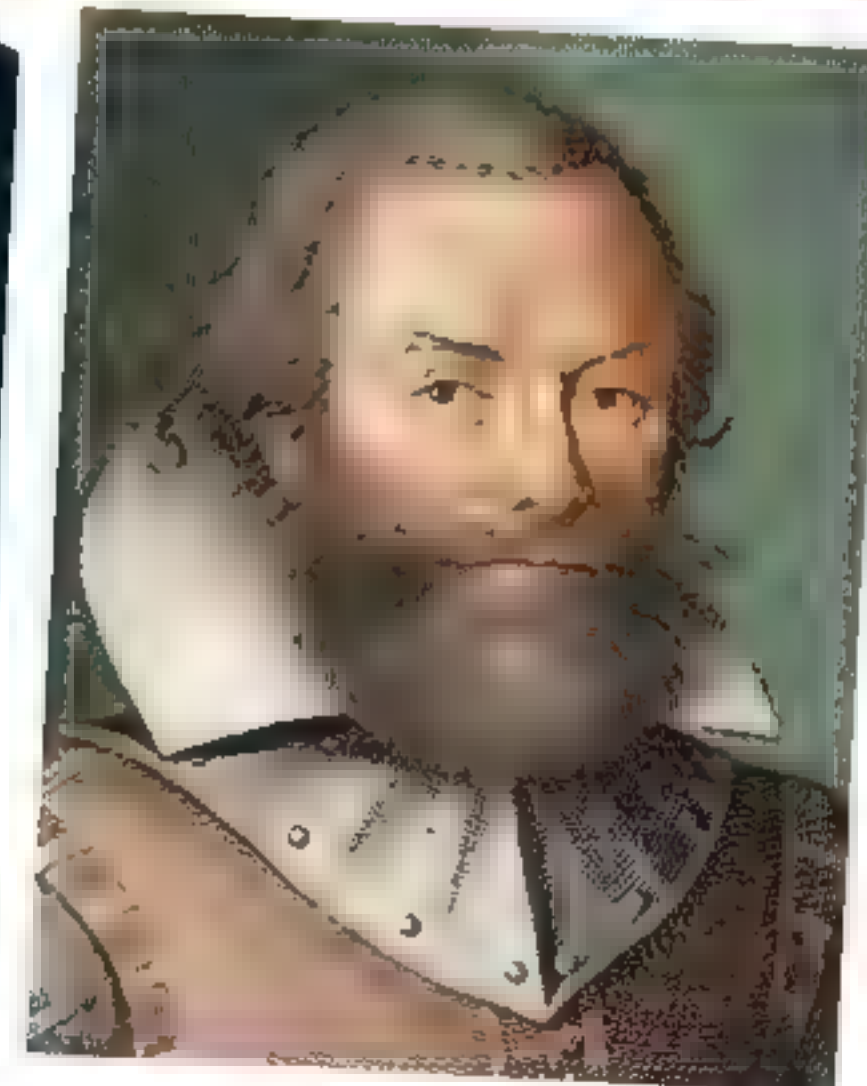
ISLE OF MAN, UK

This stronghold is another of several contenders for the real-life 'Corbenic' castle from the Vulgate Cycle and Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*. If so, it was the domain of the Fisher King and the birthplace of Sir Galahad.

## ACCOKEEK

MARYLAND, US

It's a stretch, but local legend says that, in 1606 or 1607, a Jesuit priest travelled here aboard the ship of New World explorer Captain John Smith (right) with the Holy Grail in his carry-on luggage. Apparently he hid it in the Accokeek area, along the Potomac River.

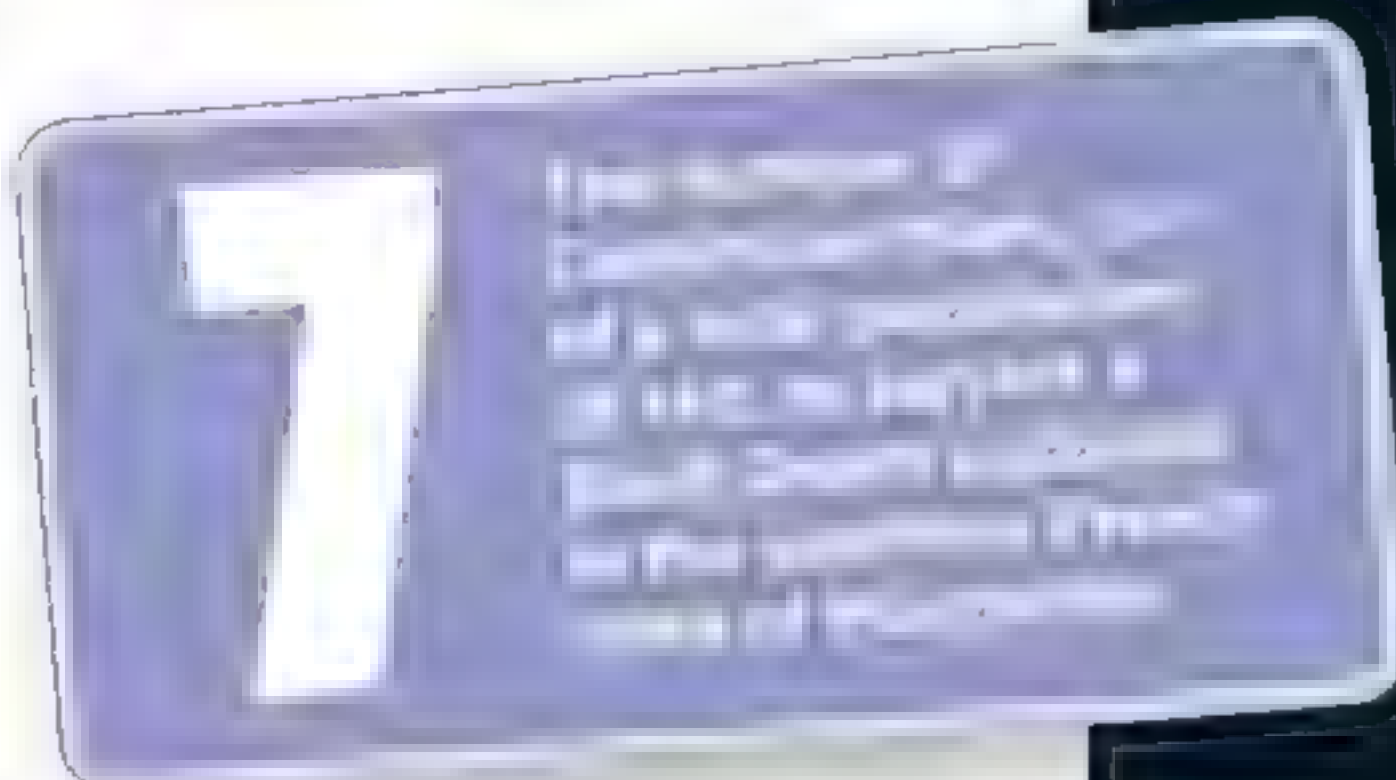




# Who was Ivar the Boneless?

**Target** The wonderfully named 'Ivar the Boneless', son of the even more improbable 'Ragnar Hairy Breeches', was one of the leaders of the Great Heathen Army of Danes that invaded England in AD 865.

Ivar and his brother Ubba are attributed with the defeat of the Northumbrians and the capture of York, later to become the major Viking centre of Jorvik. He is renowned for the gory execution of royal prisoners, notably the East Anglian king (later saint) Edmund – who was beaten, tied to a tree, shot with arrows and then beheaded – and Ælle of Northumbria, who had his rib cage and lungs pulled out, a type of killing known as the 'Blood Eagle'. It is not known how Ivar came by the nickname 'the Boneless', although some have suggested it could have been due to an unnatural flexibility during combat or because he suffered from a degenerative muscular disorder, eventually resulting in him having to be carried everywhere. Until his body is recovered – which would be difficult if he really was 'boneless' – we will never know.



**DRY AS A BONELESS**  
A 12th-century illumination depicting Ivar sailing with his Great Heathen Army

ALAMY X4, BRIDGE MAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X1

# Who was St Swithin?

**Target** More than 100 years after Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, died on 2 July, between AD 861 and 863, he was adopted as patron of the restored cathedral. New biographies talked of his deeds, piety and miracles, such as the extremely holy act of restoring a basket of broken eggs dropped by a woman who was jostled by workmen.

Swithin is said to have asked to be buried where raindrops from the church's eaves would fall. This made him a popular saint in times of drought. An old proverb claims if there's rain on St Swithin's day, 15 July, it will carry on for 40 more.

**COME RAIN OR SHRINE**  
Allegedly, there was a great storm after Swithin's body was placed in Winchester Cathedral in AD 971



# WHAT WAS THE DEBATABLE LAND?

**Target** The Anglo-Scottish border was established by the Treaty of York in 1237 and has remained largely unchanged ever since. There have, however, been one or two trouble spots. One was the important frontier town of Berwick, which changed hands several times before being captured for England by the future Richard III in 1482.

The other was 'the Debatable Land', a 40-square-mile stretch of land near the Solway Firth that both countries claimed. As neither kingdom would admit that the other had authority over it, neither could hold the other responsible for what happened there. The result was that the Debatable Land became a haven for border reiver families who raided, looted and plundered across both sides of the border. In 1552, a ditch was dug across the area dividing it into England and Scotland, but it wasn't until James VI of Scotland became king of England in 1603 that the criminal activities were finally suppressed.

**NO MAN'S LAND**  
Both sides claimed, and ignored, this stretch on the Scottish border





# What was a Viking sunstone?



The Vikings were superb sailors who got as far afield as Russia and North

America, but their navigational techniques haven't always been completely understood. A mysterious 'sunstone', mentioned in a medieval Icelandic saga, was considered mere legend until an opaque crystal, made from Iceland spar, was recently discovered among the equipment of a sunken Tudor shipwreck.

Intriguingly, scientists have proven that the piece of calcite, when held up to the sky, forms a solar compass indicating the Sun's location, through concentric rings of polarised light, even in thick cloud cover or after dusk. It's now thought this was the mysterious sunstone that helped guide Vikings such as 'Lucky' Leif Erikson to Newfoundland. Iceland Spar may have been used until the end of the 16th century.

**EVERY CLOUD**  
Viking explorers used Iceland spar, a type of calcite, to work out their position.



DO YOU  
KNOW?  
TAKING A VARIOUS



**DANCE FEVER**  
Physicians of the time claimed that the cause was 'hot blood'

## WHAT WAS THE 'DANCING PLAGUE'?



From the 14th to 17th centuries, Europe was afflicted with sporadic 'dancing plagues'.

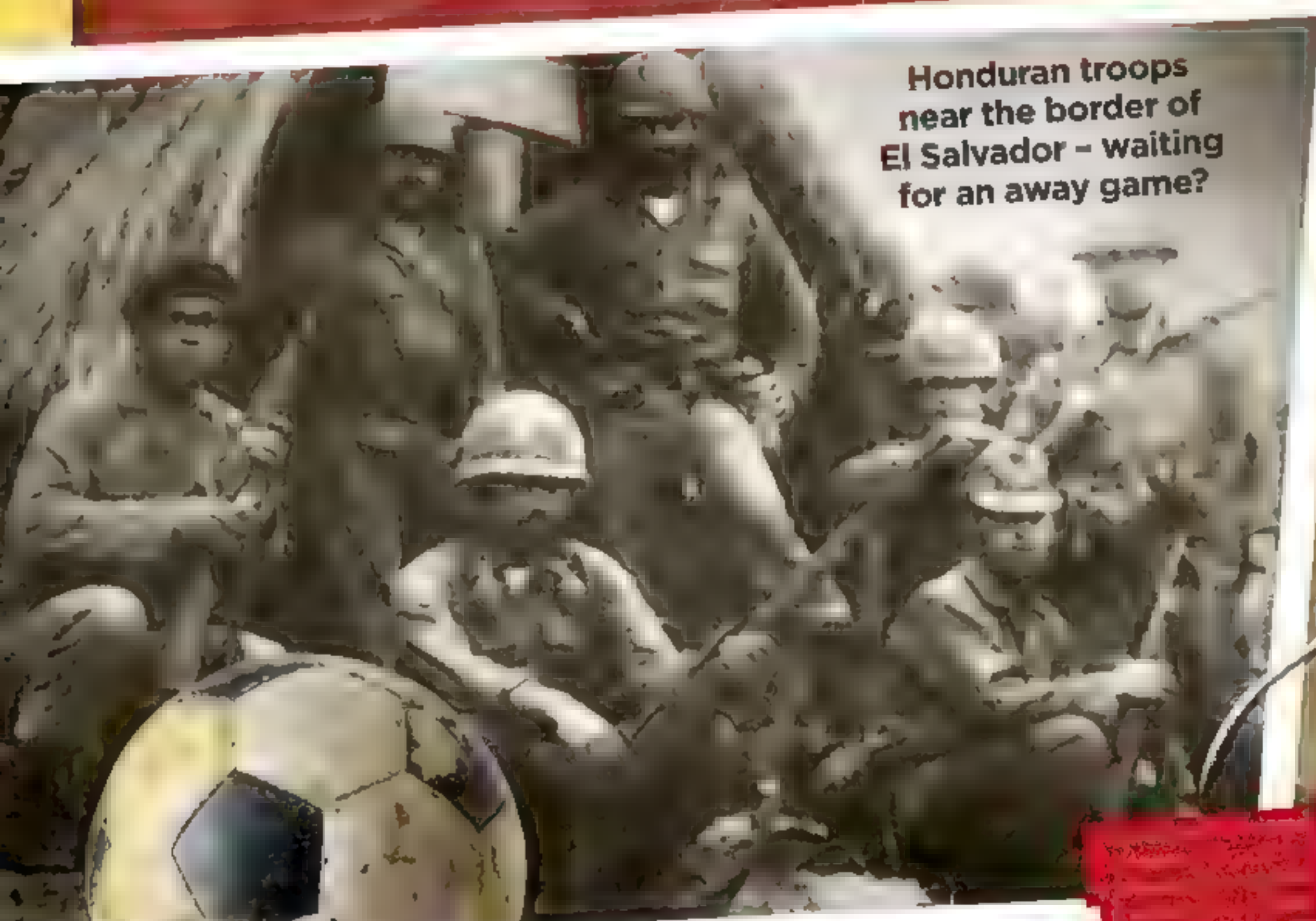
Sufferers would dance uncontrollably, often for days, and it seemed to be infectious. In July 1518, one woman, Frau Troffea, danced the streets of Strasbourg and within a month, the throng was 400 strong. Some continued until they dropped dead from exhaustion, stroke or heart attack.

The authorities hired musicians to encourage the crowd, hoping their bodies would be compelled back into balance. Suggested causes include mass social hysteria, stress-induced psychosis, religious ecstasy, or seizures caused by contaminated rye.



# TOP 10

## THE WAR OF WHAT?! WHAT ARE THE WARS WITH THE WEIRDEST NAMES?



Honduran troops near the border of El Salvador - waiting for an away game?



The bucket inspired 17th-century poet Alessandro Tassoni's greatest work

### WAR OF THE OAKEN BUCKET

BOLOGNA VS MODENA, 1325

Back when Italy was a collection of city-states, these two rivals went to war in 1325 when Modenese soldiers pilfered one of the buckets in Bologna's city wells. Modena won the war's only battle, despite Bologna's 30,000 troops. Visitors to Modena will find the bucket in question at the city hall.

### FOOTBALL WAR

EL SALVADOR VS HONDURAS, 1969

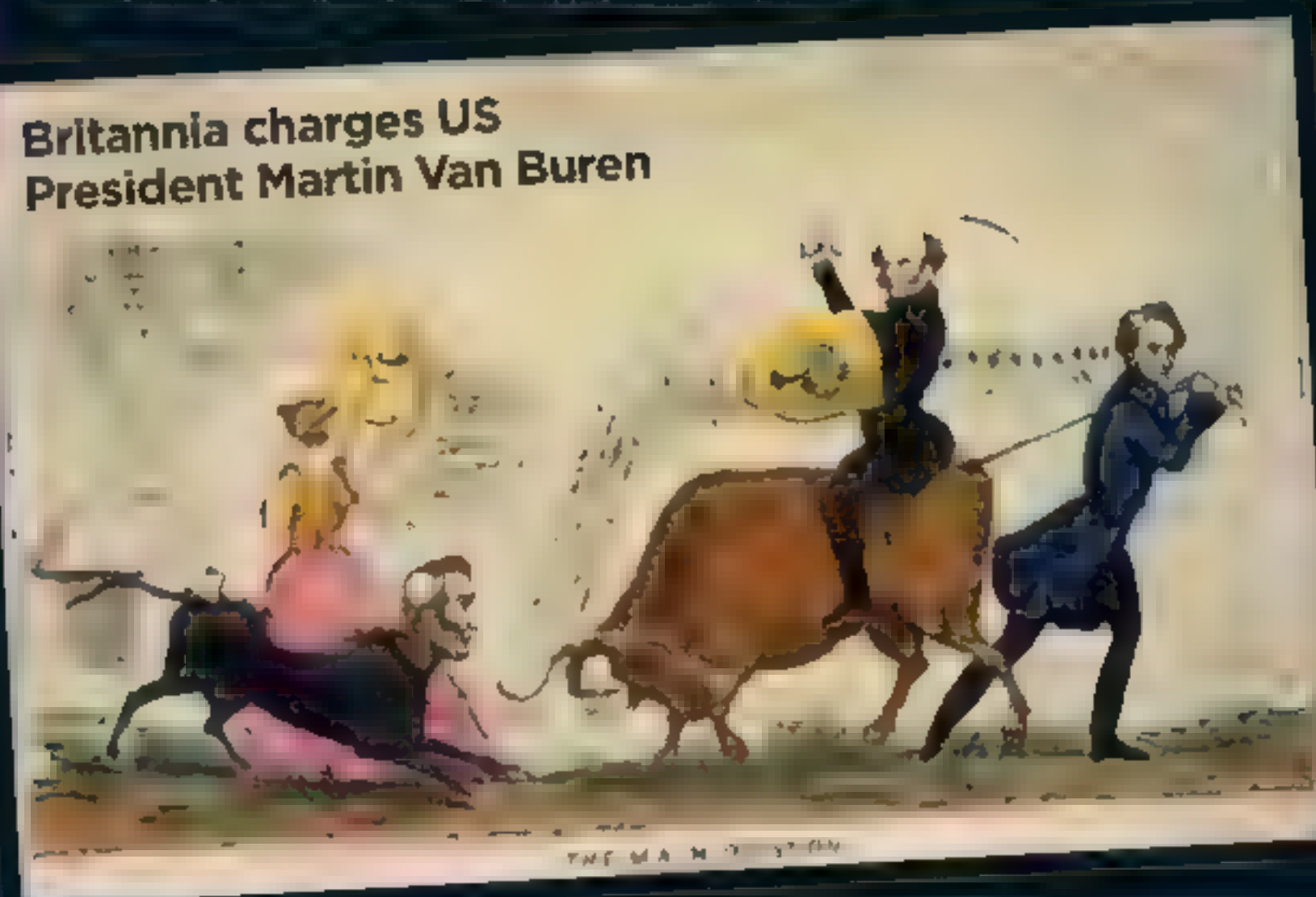
Though football fans can get more than a bit rowdy, the beautiful game is not known for starting wars. But in 1969, deep-rooted mutual suspicion between El Salvador and Honduras regarding issues such as immigration boiled over in a World Cup qualifier match. Nationalistic riots broke out; the military had to be dispatched and diplomatic relations were severed. Though the war was over within 100 hours, there were around 3,000 casualties.

### PORK AND BEANS WAR

BRITAIN VS US, 1838-39

This border dispute between Britain and the USA got its name either from the diet of local lumberjacks or the rations of British soldiers. In 1839, both nations sent troops to the Aroostook Valley, on the Canada-Maine border (hence the other name, the Aroostook War) after there was confusion as to where the border actually lay. Fighting never broke out, but several Brits were captured.

Britannia charges US President Martin Van Buren

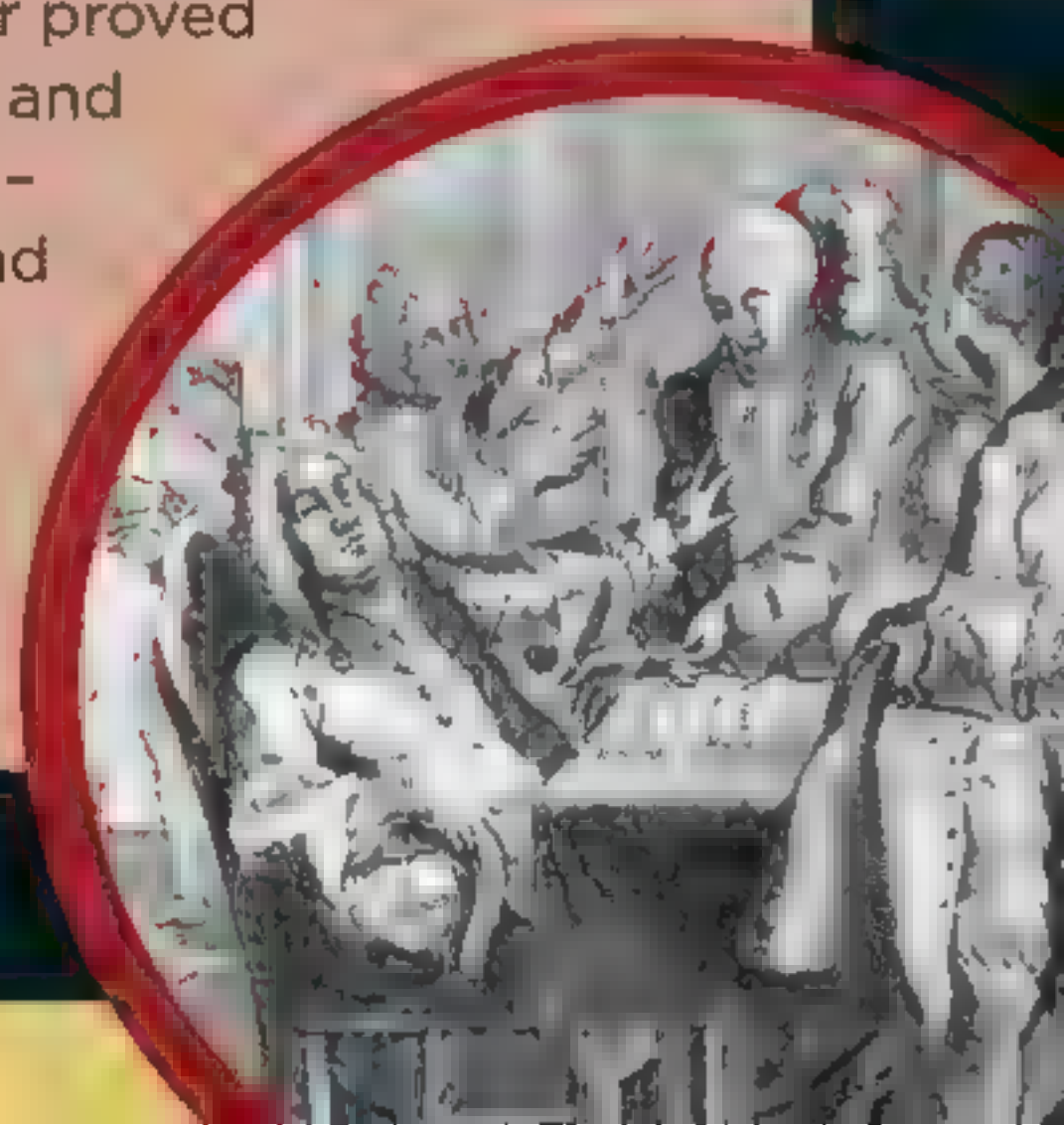


### WAR OF JENKINS' EAR

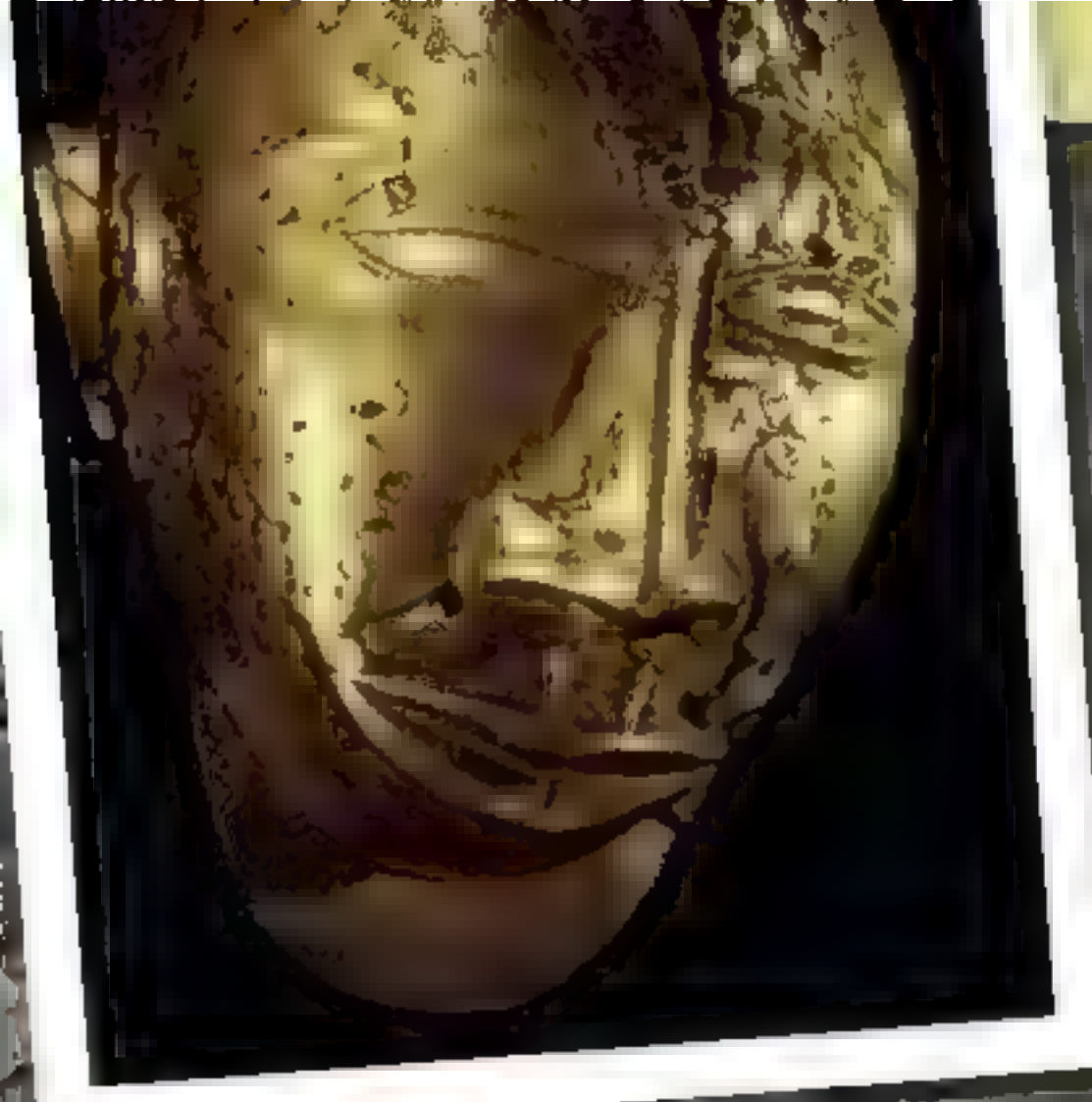
BRITAIN VS SPAIN, 1739-48

Ship's captain Robert Jenkins had his ear cut off by a Spanish coastguard during an argument in 1731, but Britain didn't dredge up the incident for another seven years, when they were looking for an excuse to go to war with Spain. They believed a victory would improve trading opportunities in the Caribbean, but the war proved costly both financially and in terms of human life - over 40,000 British and colonial troops died.

Despite the rumours, Jenkins never brought his ear to Parliament





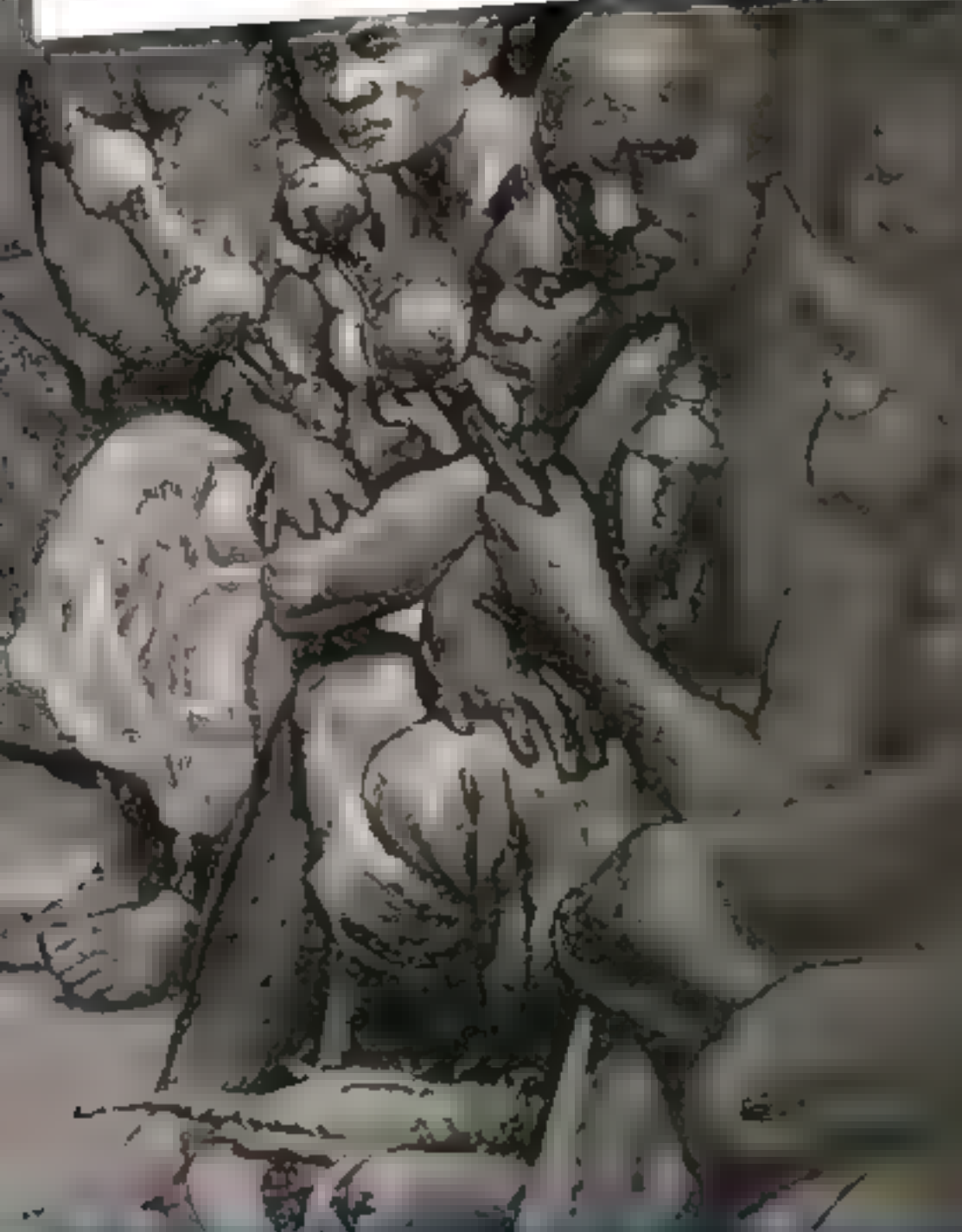


## WAR OF THE GOLDEN STOOL

BRITAIN VS ASANTE EMPIRE, 1900

At the turn of the 20th century, Britain was keen to expand its empire deeper into Africa. This brought its forces into contact with the Asante tribe on the Gold Coast. As the name suggests, the area was rich in natural resources, and the locals used the precious metal to coat the throne of their ruler. The British governor demanded the Asante hand over this golden stool after a rebellion – the deeply insulted Asante fought hard, but could not stave off colonisation.

**MAIN:** The Asante ruler has the best seat in town. **INSET:** This golden head attached to the stool was thought to represent an enemy killed in battle.



## FLAGSTAFF WAR

BRITAIN VS MAORI, 1845-46

Many of the wars on this list began for petty reasons, but perhaps none more so than Hōne Heke's rebellion. After the British planted their flag on his New Zealand turf in 1844, the Maori chief rode in and chopped it down. They replanted it, so he took his axe to it again. Four times. On the last occasion, the passive-aggressive behaviour spilled over into real aggression, and the Hōne Heke killed the flag's defenders. Sparking a number of key battles, the war finished as it had begun – a stalemate.



Hōne Heke does a hatchet job on the British flagpole.

Hōne Heke's original plan was to drive the British settlers out of the country and return to Auckland.

## PASTRY WAR

FRANCE VS MEXICO, 1838-39

Though it may sound like a *Bake Off* spin-off, this conflict was taken very seriously. When a French chef living in Mexico City tried to claim a greedy sum of compensation after Mexicans looted his bakery, the French government gladly took up the case in 1838. After sending ships to blockade the country's Atlantic ports, many clashes ensued until the British brokered a peace three months later.

Find out more on page 107.



## POTATO WAR (OR PLUM FUSS)

AUSTRIA VS PRUSSIA, SAXONY AND BAVARIA, 1778-79

The War of the Bavarian Succession in 1778 involved many of Europe's German-speaking powers, and aimed to stop the Habsburgs gaining control of Bavaria. It only consisted of a few small skirmishes, yet thousands were dying of starvation so soldiers spent most of their time searching for food. The Prussians and Saxons called it the *Kartoffelkrieg* (Potato War), but the Austrians preferred the daintier *Zwetschenrummel* (Plum Fuss).



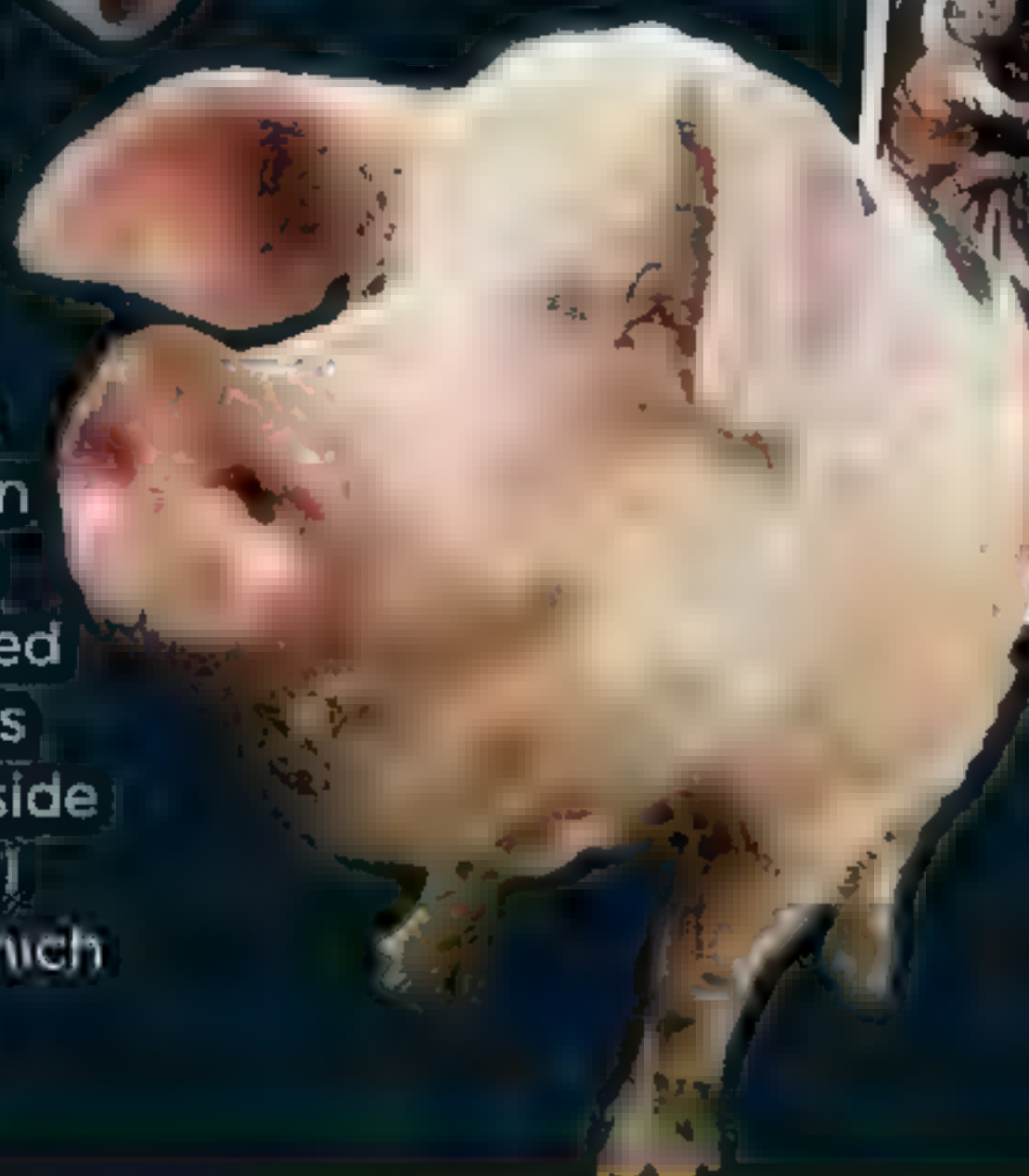
Soldiers dug up spud crops to try and thwart the enemy.

## PIG WAR

BRITAIN VS USA, 1859

It all began when a fed-up farmer shot a pig after it strayed onto his land once again. The problem was that he was on an island between Washington State and British Columbia claimed by both Britain and the USA. The hog's owner was an Irishman, who demanded \$100 compensation. When the American refused to pay up, Britain threatened to arrest him, while American settlers called for his military protection. Both nations sent troops to the island, but neither side ever fired a single shot. King Wilhelm I was called to arbitrate the dispute, which took 15 years to resolve completely.

British and Americans didn't consider each other as swine as they continued to drink together.



## LE PETIT JOURNAL



Bulgarian peasants flee the Greeks, who attack the border town of Petrich.

## WAR OF THE STRAY DOG

GREECE VS BULGARIA, 1925

When a Greek guard at the border with Bulgaria (one of the country's rivals) accidentally managed to lose his dog over the other side, he ran after it, but was shot and killed by the Bulgarians. They apologised, but Greece invaded a border town anyway, and the League of Nations was eventually forced to intervene.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY/WELLINGTON/NEW ZEALAND XI



# WORLD HISTORY

## FOUNDING MOTHER

This statue of Sacagawea and her son stands outside the North Dakota State Capitol



## WHO WERE THE MOST INTREPID FEMALE EXPLORERS OF THE 19TH CENTURY?

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**A CALMING DISCUSSION**

At the Boston Tea Party of 1773, one of history's tidiest events, women were boarding the ships.



Exploration is yet another field of history long considered a largely male preserve, but there were some women in the 1800s who refused to be left out. The Native American woman Sacagawea, of the Lemhi Shoshone tribe, was instrumental in the success of the expedition of Lewis and Clark into the American West. She acted as an interpreter and peacemaker with the local

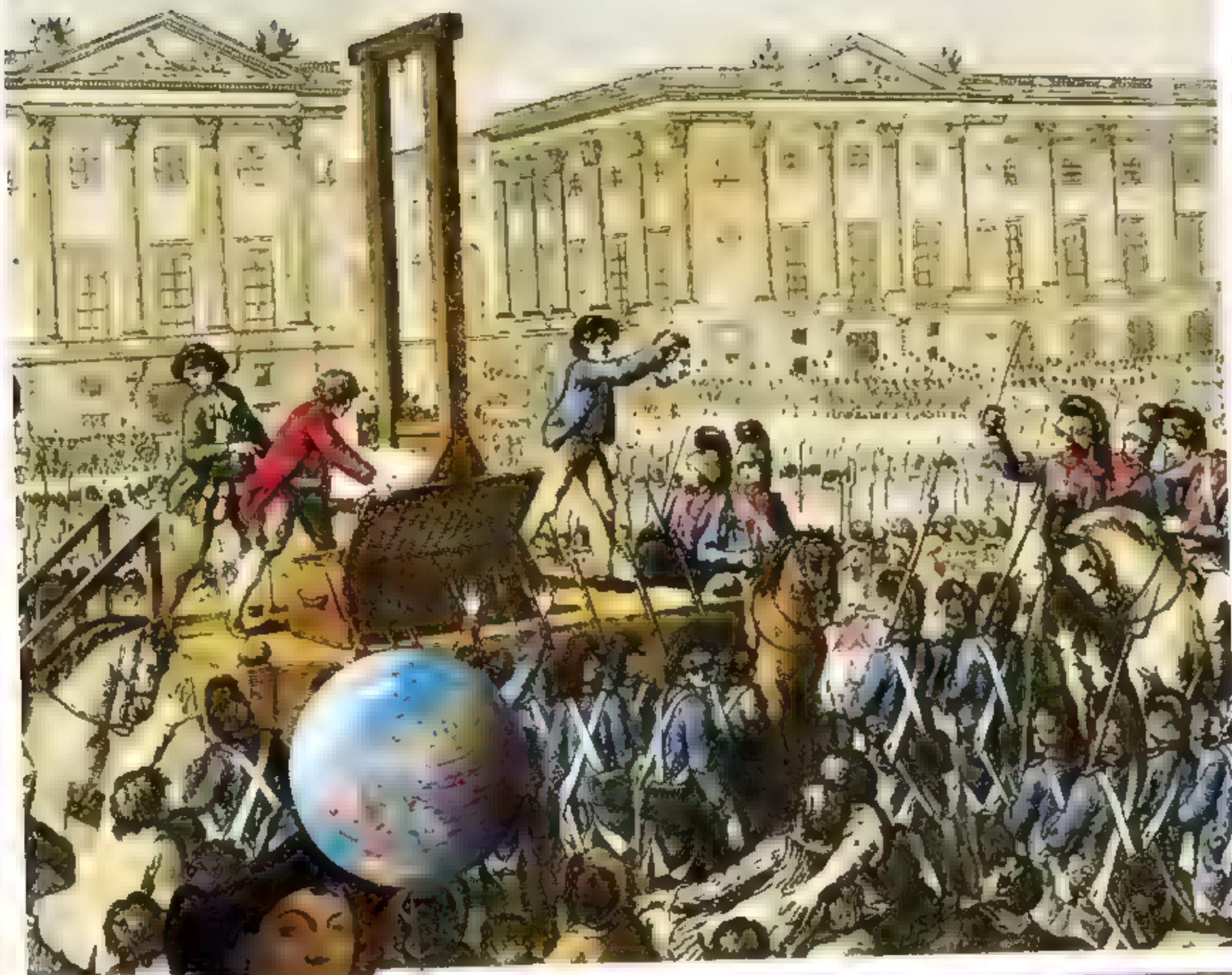
chiefs, while still giving birth to a son (Jean Baptiste) along the way.

Most female explorers, however, were well-to-do and with an adventurous spirit. In 1869, Dutch heiress and seasoned traveller Alexandrine Tinné was killed attempting to become the first woman to cross the Sahara. Isabella Bird, over almost four decades of travelling, thousands of miles of which she

rode on horseback, produced pioneering written and photographic accounts of everyday life around the world. She was the first woman accepted into the Royal Geographical Society in 1892. In the same year, English ethnographic writer Mary Kingsley planned a solo journey to Africa, where she lived with locals in the jungle and studied the allegedly 'cannibal' society.



**HEADS WILL ROLL**  
On 21 January 1793,  
King Louis XVI joined  
the thousands who died  
at the guillotine's blade

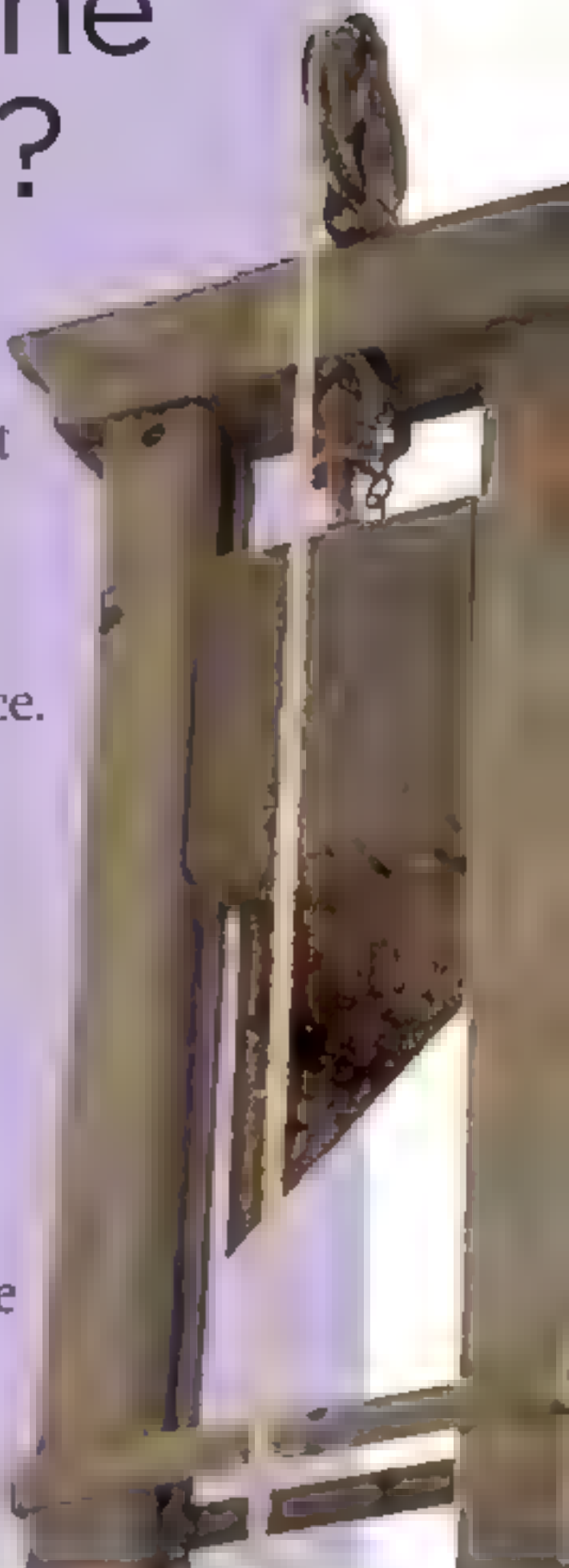


## How many died on the guillotine in the French Revolution?

The sight of the guillotine, and the grinding sound as it drops, is so evocative of the revolution that erupted in France in 1789. Yet the extent of the violence is difficult to determine as estimates for the number who lost their heads vary.

Beyond the centre of revolutionary 'justice', Paris, local officials set up portable guillotines across France. The ruthless efficiency of executions meant whole families could be decapitated in minutes – some 247 people fell prey to the guillotine on Christmas Day 1793 alone. At least 17,000 were officially condemned to death during the 'Reign of Terror', which lasted from September 1793 to July 1794, with the age of victims ranging from 14 to 92.

It is suggested, though, that this number has to be doubled, at a conservative guess, to account for those killed in less official ways, such as while in prison awaiting sentence or at the hands of a mob (as was the fate of the Princess de Lamballe).



## WHEN DID WE REALISE THE WORLD ISN'T FLAT?

Generally, educated people in the Middle Ages were well aware that Earth was a sphere. In fact, it had been known since the times of the Ancient Greeks and is mentioned in the writings of Aristotle and Ptolemy. When the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus faced opposition to his bid to sail to the East Indies, it was not due to fears that he would sail off the edge of the world, but because people (rightly) thought he had underestimated the length of the voyage.



## WHICH IS WITCH

A woodcut of a white witch and a black witch, showing good and bad magic

## WHEN (AND WHY) DID WITCH HUNTING STOP?

The western world has had a conflicted relationship with magic, with the notorious witch-hunting craze of the 1600s providing its violent climax. But while vengeful hags became the stereotype, for centuries communities actually consulted folk healers or 'wise women' for medical advice. In times of uncertainty, they would be turned

on, even if their 'powers' had only done good before. Largely, terror faded as 'enlightened' ideas undermined the popular beliefs in magic.

The candidates for the last woman convicted of witchcraft in England are Jane Wenham (1712) and Mary Hicke (1716), but lynchings of suspected witches did continue well into the 1800s.





## WHEN DID THE KOREAN WAR END?

**Target** Strictly speaking, it never has. On 27 July 1953, US army general William Harrison Jr and North Korean general Nam Il signed an Armistice Agreement which brought about a ceasefire. The aim was to "ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved". That "peaceful settlement" never came. No treaty has ever been signed, and today the border – referred to as the 38th Parallel – between the two Koreas remains the most militarised frontier anywhere in the world. Nearly 30,000 US troops are stationed in South Korea and over a million Korean troops face each other across the border.



**STANDING GUARD**  
A US soldier snaps a North Korean counterpart at Panmunjom, the North Korean 'peace' town

## ROAD TO REVOLUTION

The massacre was a catalyst of the American Revolutionary War



## What was the loudest-ever known sound?

**Target** The cataclysmic eruption of the Indonesian volcano Krakatoa early on 26 August 1883 is thought to be the loudest sound in historical record. Based on the investigation of the explosion by Dutch scientist Rogier Verbeek, it has been suggested that the sound measured 180–190 decibels (permanent hearing damage can be caused at 130 decibels). The noise was reportedly heard in Australia, and even as far as 3,000 miles away on the island of Rodrigues, near Mauritius. The eruption, as well as the resulting ash and tsunamis, killed over 36,000 people.



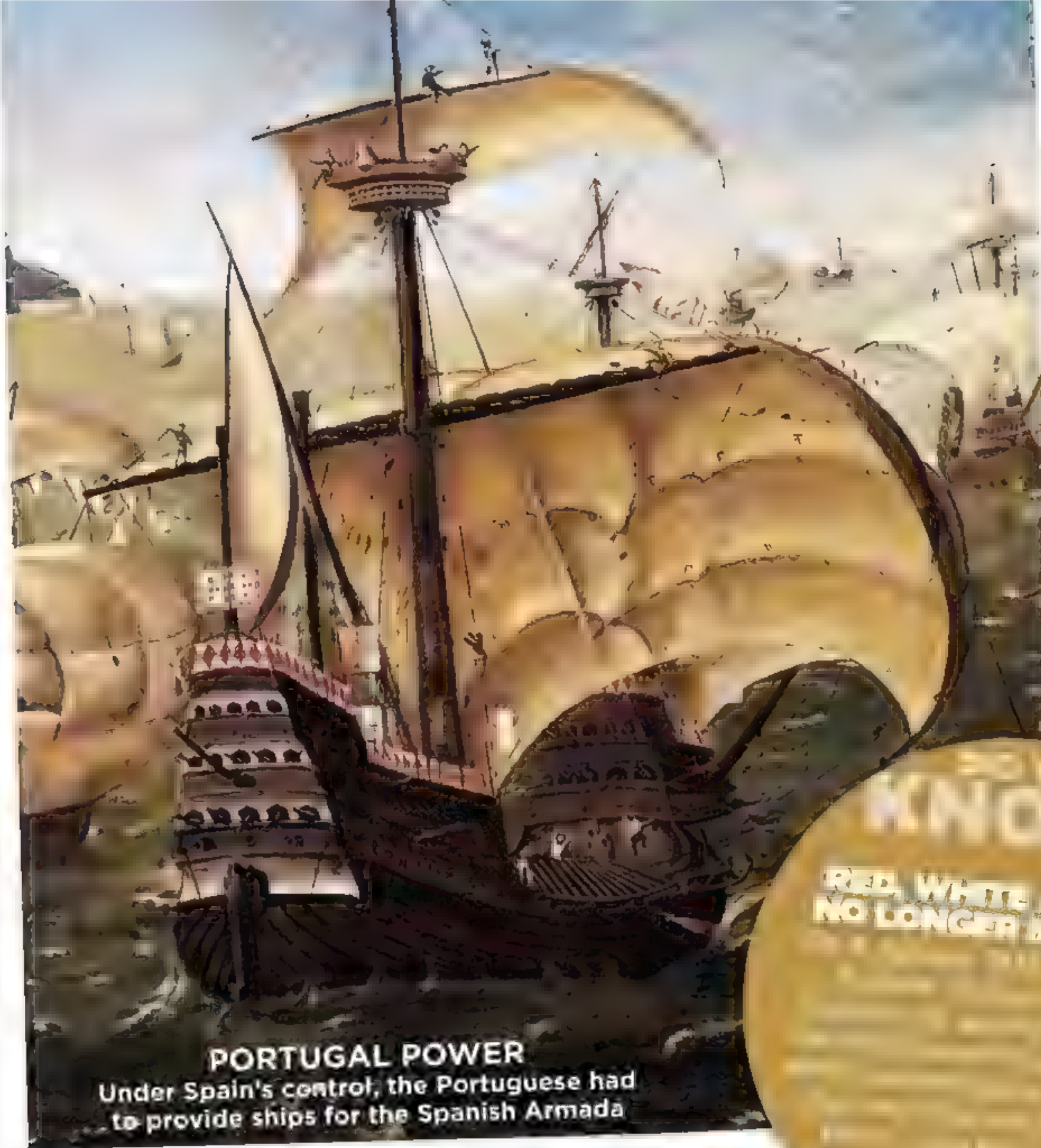
**NOISE POLLUTION**  
Even 100 miles from the explosion, the noise was louder than a jet engine

## HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED IN THE BOSTON MASSACRE?

**Target** On 5 March 1770, a squadron of British soldiers opened fire on a mob of American patriots on a Boston street. The town in Massachusetts was a hotbed of resentment towards British authority, especially when it came to taxation, and the home of a burgeoning resistance. A group of around 50 gathered outside the Custom House on King Street and intimidated the guard. But despite having nothing more than sticks, stones and snowballs, the crowd was met with musket fire. Three died at the scene, while another two succumbed afterwards. Most of the soldiers were acquitted – having been defended by future President John Adams, who believed everyone deserved a fair trial – but the Boston Massacre sparked outrage across the colonies.

40 million





### PORTUGAL POWER

Under Spain's control, the Portuguese had to provide ships for the Spanish Armada

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONCE-GREAT PORTUGUESE NAVY?



Having prospered during the Age of Discovery, Portugal's Indian colonies and navy were already showing signs of wobbling in the 16th century. Historians blame corruption, weak leadership, local mutinies and insufficient resources, but arguably the biggest factor was the loss of Portuguese independence following the Succession Crisis of 1580.

After King Sebastian's death in battle, and the sudden passing of his elderly replacement, Spain's predatory King Philip II launched an invasion to unite all Iberia. Now unable to choose its own foreign policy, Portugal found itself at war with its traditional ally, England, and its Dutch trading partners (who were fiercely resisting Spanish rule). This badly damaged Portugal's economy and left their possessions in India and South America vulnerable to attacks from the superior English and Dutch navies. By the time revolution restored Portugal's independence in 1640, the damage to the navy was already done.

SO YOU KNOW?  
RED, WHITE AND BLUE  
NO LONGER IN THE RED

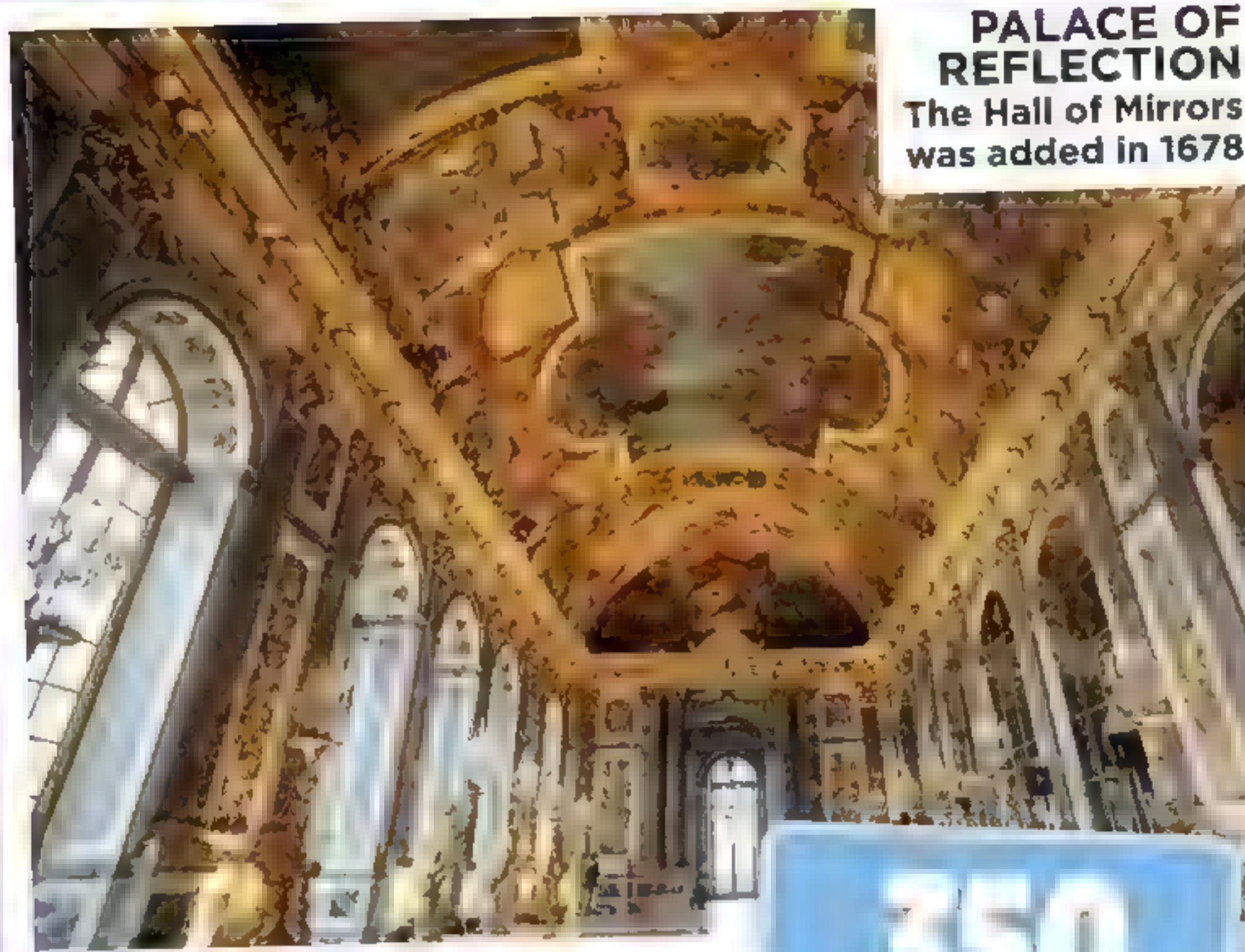
## How much did it cost to build Versailles?



The magnificent Palace of Versailles, France's former royal residence and centre of government, was one of the most expensive building projects in history.

It didn't start that way, as all King Louis XIII wanted was a hunting lodge for his family. It would be his son, Louis XIV – the Sun King, infamous for flashing the bling – who made things bigger and more lavish throughout the second half of the 17th century. Ministers tried to minimise costs by taking the building materials from within France, even going so far as nationalising a tapestry factory, but expenses continued to rocket and initial estimates ended up a fraction of the eventual price tag.

Due to a lack of data, and historical currency conversion



**PALACE OF REFLECTION**  
The Hall of Mirrors was added in 1678

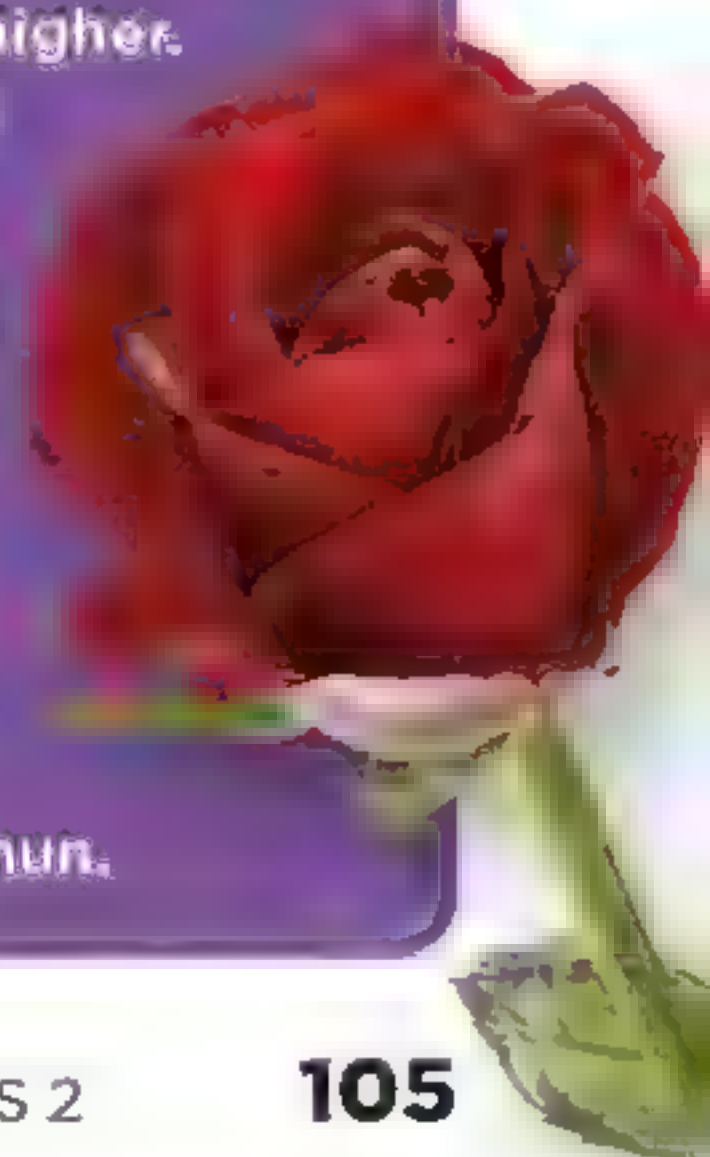
being arcane at the best of times, calculating the cost is tricky. In 1994, American TV company PBS concluded that the French palace could have cost anywhere between \$200–300 billion in today's money.

350

## HOW MANY WOMEN DID CASANOVA SEDUCE?




Giacomo Casanova, the 18th-century libertine whose name is now synonymous with womanising, left a diary detailing his amorous adventures. In it, he claimed to have bedded up to 150 women (plus a few men) – perhaps not quite the dizzying number we might expect from one of history's most notorious seducers. Some of his later biographers have set the number a little higher. His attention to detail in his seductions saw him enchant a host of sisters, widows, crossdressing women, other men's wives and a Venetian nun.





# What is the largest stained glass window in the world?

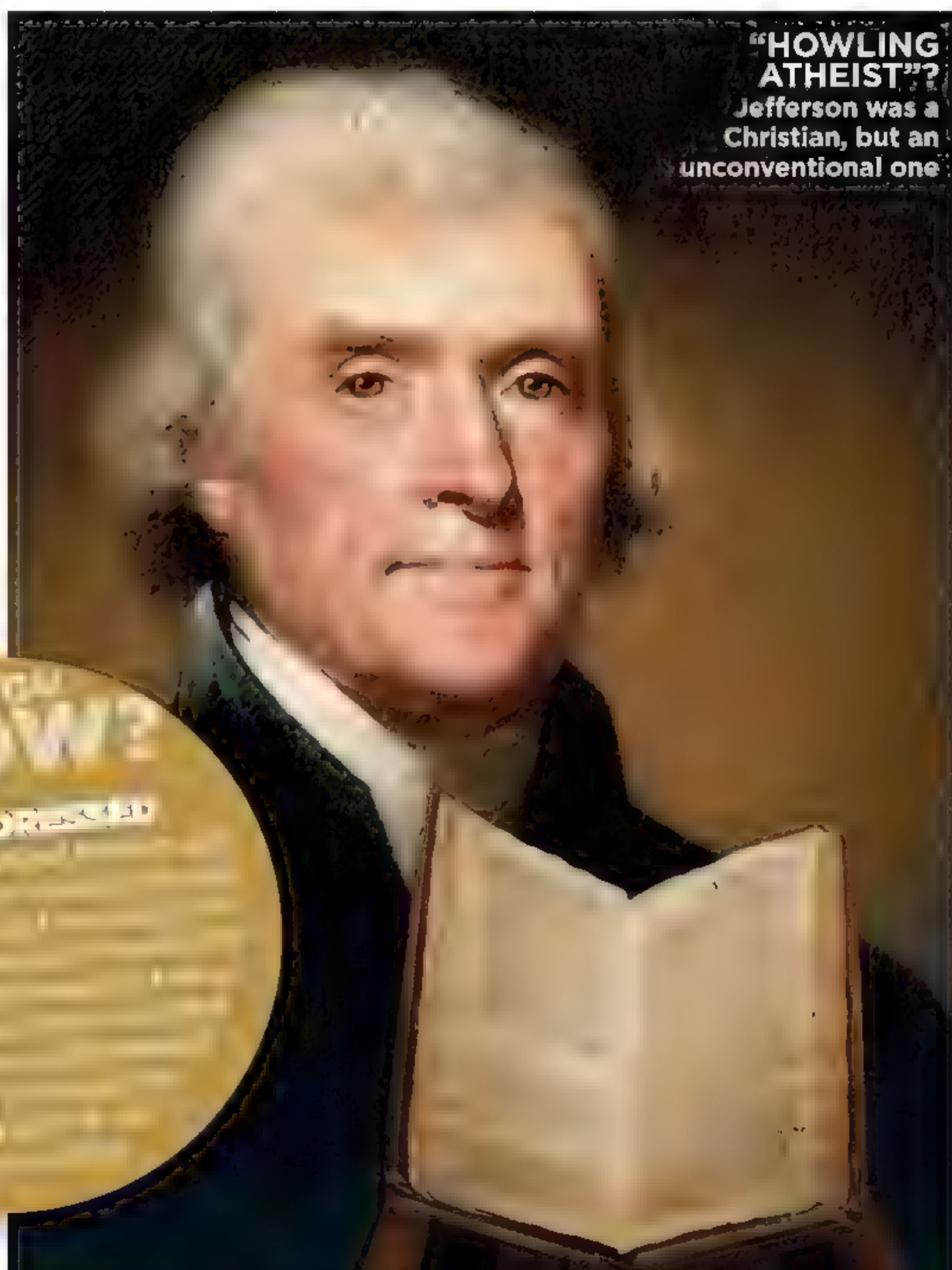
 The honour goes to the 2,079-square-metre window installed at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois, in the 1970s. Yet more extraordinary are the windows completed before modern technological advances. The Great East Window found in York Minster, a Gothic masterpiece completed in 1408 by Coventry glazier John Thornton, boasts the single largest expanse of medieval stained glass in Britain. At 23 metres tall, and with 311 panels, the window rather fittingly depicts the story of the world from its creation to the Apocalypse.




**A WINDOW TO LOVE**  
The Great East Window of York Minster is the size of a tennis court



**"HOWLING ATHEIST"?**  
Jefferson was a Christian, but an unconventional one



## WAS THE AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHER THOMAS JEFFERSON REALLY AN ATHEIST?

 Thomas Jefferson is a great of American history. He was a representative at the Continental Congress before and during the American Revolutionary War, the lead author of the Declaration of Independence and the third President. You may expect he would be universally loved during his lifetime, but he was actually attacked by religious conservatives as a "howling atheist". The truth was more complex. Although Jefferson self-identified as a Christian, he was suspicious of the clergy and the Church.

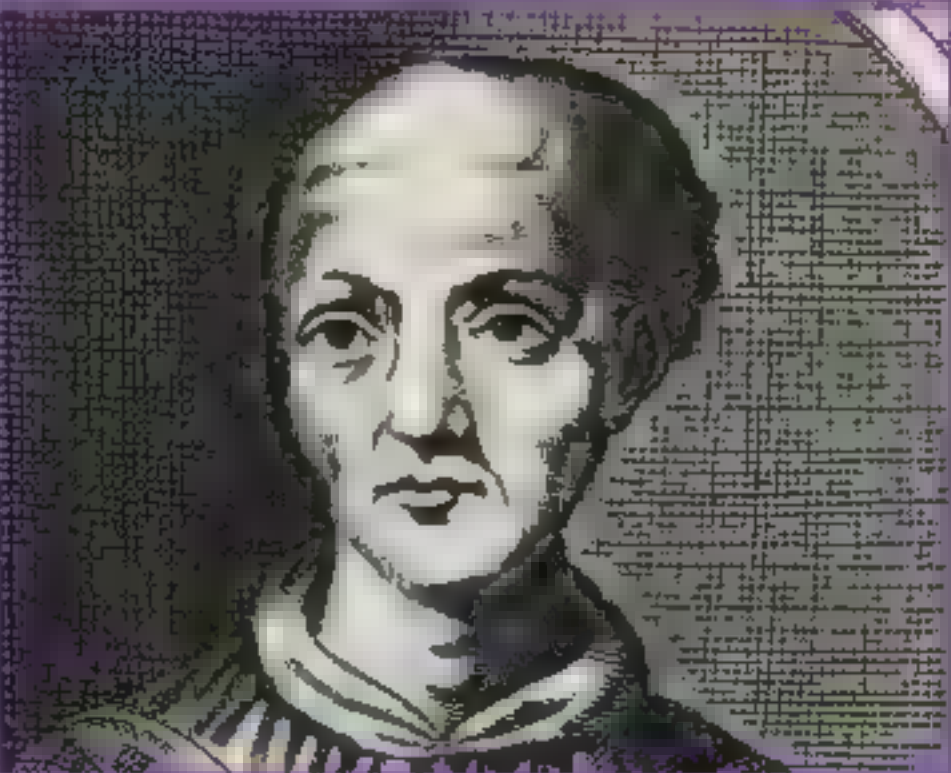
It seems he was probably a deist, who believed God had created the Earth, but didn't meddle in human affairs. Jefferson rejected Christ's divinity and instead praised him as a brilliant moral philosopher whose teachings had been corrupted by later biographers. In 1804, the President assembled the first of two so-called *Jefferson Bibles*, in which he pored over the Greek, Latin, French and English translations of the sacred text and literally took a sharp razor to anything he found implausible.

His second scrapbook of 1820, *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*, reduced the New Testament to 84 pages and was devoid of any miracles, including Christ's resurrection. The original is held by the Smithsonian Museum, but a digital version can be read online.



## WHO WAS THE YOUNGEST EVER POPE?

Oddly enough, canon law is vague on the minimum age requirement for the papacy. A cleric must be 35 years old to be a bishop, and the Pope is technically the Bishop of Rome, but the Papal election is a secret ballot with its own rules. The youngest-ever was John XII, who was elected in the tenth century aged 18, if not younger. Maybe the power went to his head, as the depraved, sex fiend John is now considered one of history's worst popes.



**TROUBLED TEEN**  
Pope John XII was deposed in AD 963 for his immorality.

## What play was Abraham Lincoln watching when he was shot?

Tom Taylor's *Our American Cousin* was a farcical comedy about a redneck American who travels to England to claim his inheritance from his aristocratic relatives. The audience favourite was the bumbling, English eccentric Lord Dundreary, despite only having a few lines. This was thanks to actor EA Sothorn, whose crazy costume and hairdo, silly voices and ad-libbing stole the show. His over-the-top sideburns even became known as 'Dundrearies'.

When President Abraham Lincoln went to see *Our American Cousin* on 14 April 1865, Sothorn wasn't in the cast, but it still promised to be an rip-roaring night. As

an actor himself, John Wilkes Booth knew the play well so was able to time his shot with a guaranteed hoot, in the hope that the roar of laughter would cover the blast.



**WITH A BANG**  
Ford's Theatre was ringing with hysterical laughter at the moment Lincoln was shot.

## What was the Pastry War?

In early 1838, Monsieur Remontel, a French pastry chef in a small town near Mexico City, complained that a group of army officers had ransacked his bakery and restaurant. When the Mexican government refused to compensate him, he appealed to his native country.

The French, who believed they were already owed money by Mexico, gladly intervened. They demanded a total compensation of 600,000 pesos, an enormous sum – including 60,000 pesos for Remontel's restaurant, which had been valued at less than 1,000 pesos. When the Mexican government refused to pay, the French sent a fleet to blockade the country, before bombarding and occupying the important port of Veracruz. The Mexicans fought back under the leadership of General Santa Anna, their commander at the Alamo two years earlier, but eventually the British got involved and arranged a peace deal. The French got their 600,000 pesos, Monsieur Remontel received his compensation and, in March 1839, the French fleet sailed home.

### PRISE DU FORT DE S'-JEAN D'ULLOA ET DE LA VERA-CRUZ, PAR LA MARINE FRANÇAISE.



**BAKE-OFF BATTLE**  
The French seize the crucial port city of Veracruz



# GRAPHIC HISTORY

Globetrotting through the ages

## WHO WERE THE FIRSTS TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE WORLD?



Setting off with **270** men across **five** ships, Magellan's ill-fated armada weathered storms, suppressed mutinies and warred with natives until just **18 men** and **a single ship** remained.



### The very first circumnavigation

**WHO** Portugal's Ferdinand Magellan, then Spain's Juan Sebastián Elcano  
**WHEN** 1519-22  
**HOW** In a Spanish carrack, the *Victoria*  
**ROUTE** Seville, Spain - Strait of Magellan - Philippines - Cape of Good Hope - Seville, Spain



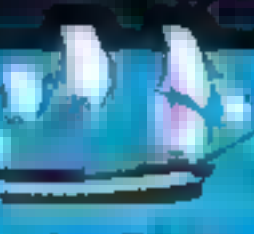
### First under a single captain

**WHO** Sir Francis Drake  
**WHEN** 1577-80  
**HOW** On the *Golden Hind*  
**ROUTE** Plymouth, England - Strait of Magellan - Philippines - Cape of Good Hope - Plymouth, England



### First private traveller

**WHO** Florentine merchant Francesco Carletti  
**WHEN** 1594-1602  
**HOW** Multiple ships  
**ROUTE** Seville, Spain - Cape Verde - Mexico - Japan - India - Florence, Italy



### First woman around the world

**WHO** Julie Gordon Low  
**WHEN** 1965-66  
**HOW** On the *Starliner*  
**ROUTE** New York - Cape of Good Hope - New York



### First to go both ways

**WHO** Sir Francis Drake  
**WHEN** 1577-80  
**HOW** On the *Golden Hind*  
**ROUTE** Plymouth, England - Strait of Magellan - Philippines - Cape of Good Hope - Plymouth, England

**NB** The routes shown are approximations; they are not accurate representations of the various routes taken



In 1987 athlete Rick Hansen became the first to travel around the world in a wheelchair. Over his 26-month 'Man in Motion World Tour' he covered nearly **25,000 miles**

King Kalākaua of Hawaii became the first **reigning monarch** to complete a circumnavigation of the world in 1881, having encircled the globe over land and sea





### First hot-air balloon around the world

**WHO:** Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones  
**WHEN:** 1999  
**HOW:** Hot-air balloon  
**ROUTE:** Europe - Africa - Asia - Australia - Europe

# 13,500

The approximate number of miles cycled by Stevens, meaning that around **11,401 miles** were covered by boat.

### First solo circumnavigation

**WHO:** Thomas Stevens  
**WHEN:** 1899-1904  
**HOW:** Bicycle  
**ROUTE:** Europe - Africa - Asia - Australia - Europe

### First person to walk around the world

**WHO:** Philippe Guillard  
**WHEN:** 1971-74  
**HOW:** On foot  
**ROUTE:** Europe - Africa - Asia - Australia - Europe



Dan kept walking even when he was **crossing the oceans** by pacing up and down the ships' decks.

### First land circumnavigation

**WHO:** Thomas Stevens  
**WHEN:** 1899-1904  
**HOW:** Bicycle  
**ROUTE:** Europe - Africa - Asia - Australia - Europe

### First circumnavigation of the Earth

**WHO:** Ferdinand Magellan  
**WHEN:** 1519-22  
**HOW:** Ship  
**ROUTE:** Europe - Africa - Asia - Australia - Europe

### First orbit of the Earth

**WHO:** Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin  
**WHEN:** 12 April 1961  
**HOW:** Aboard Vostok-1  
**ROUTE:** Kazakhstan - Hawaii - Strait of Magellan - Egypt - Kazakhstan

### First circumpolar navigation

**WHO:** British adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and co  
**WHEN:** 1979-82  
**HOW:** By surface only  
**ROUTE:** London, UK - South Africa - South Pole - USA - North Pole - London, UK

### First helicopter

**WHO:** Australian entrepreneur Dick Smith  
**WHEN:** 1982-83  
**HOW:** In a Bell 206 helicopter  
**ROUTE:** Texas, USA - UK - Australia - Texas, USA







## ERR... WHAT?

Either nannies during World War II took extreme precautions to protect their charges, or something else is going on here. The pistol-packing woman is actually a man - all maid up, if you will - taking part in a drill by the Scottish Command home guards to test a soldier's readiness when confronted by a 'fifth columnist'. Under the threat of German invasion, there was a fear in Britain of home-grown enemies, the fifth column, sabotaging the military effort. How they would bring down the nation by pushing prams is anyone's guess. Still, best to be prepared.





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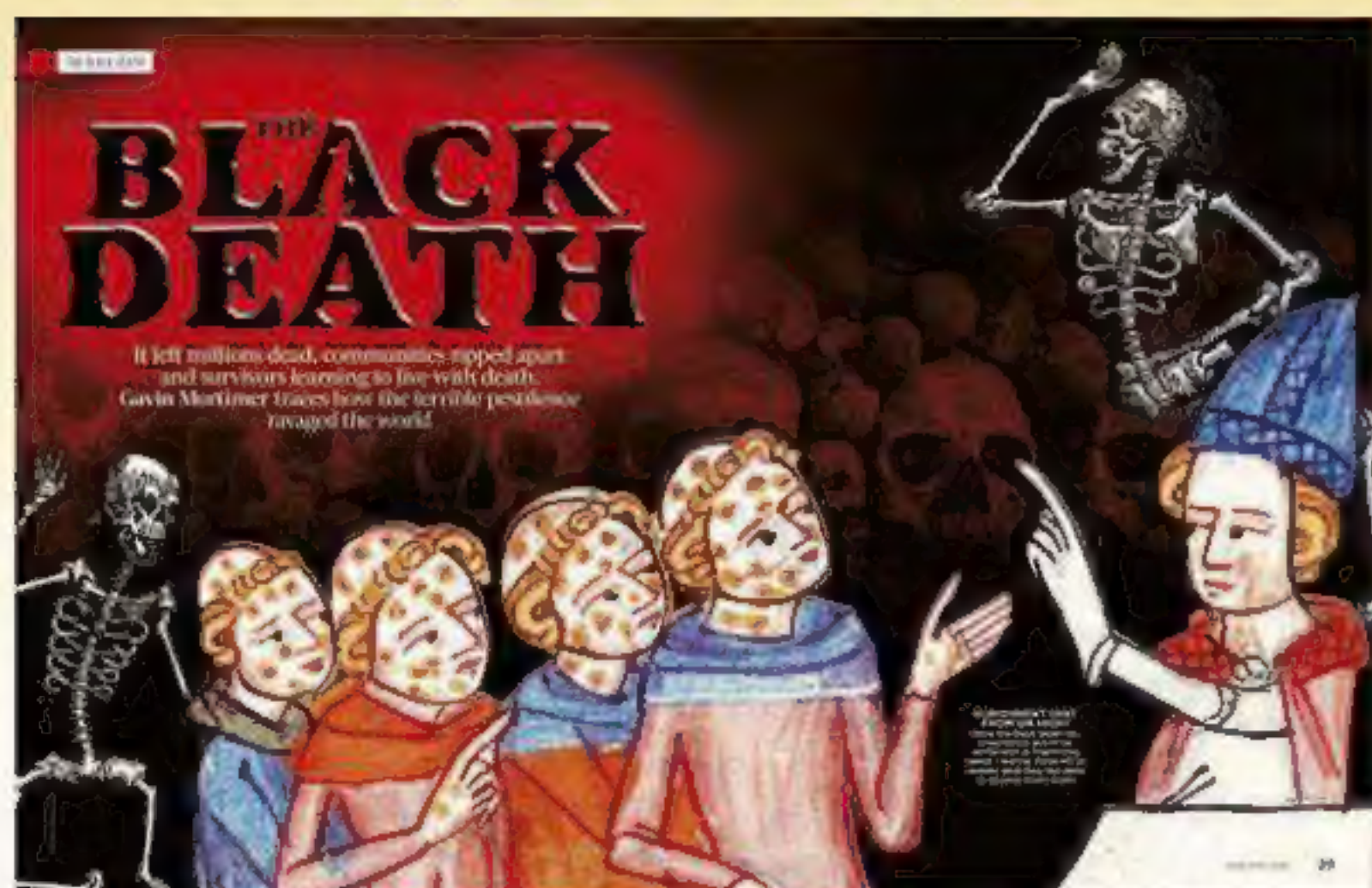
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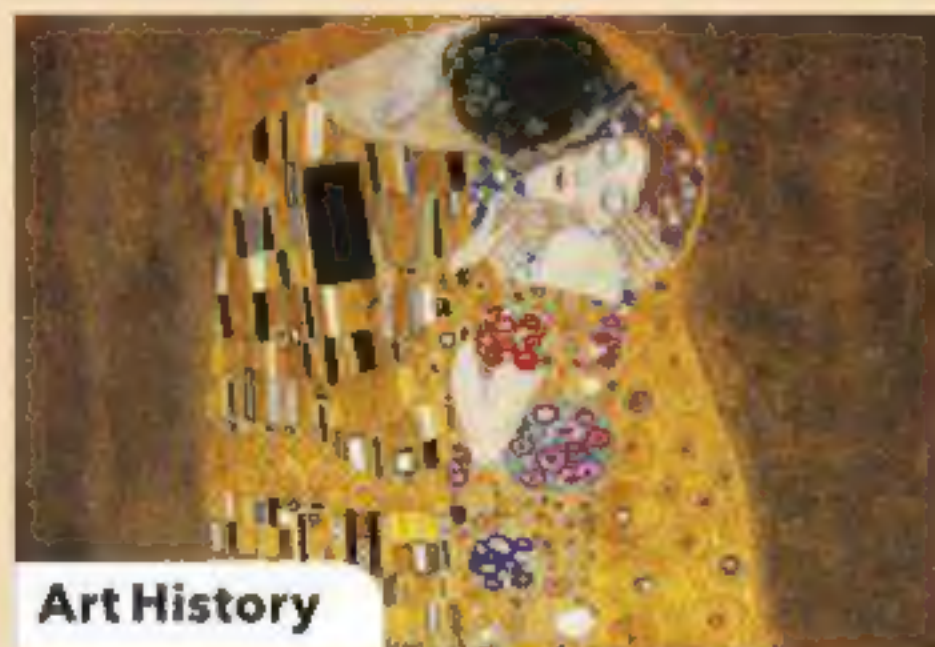
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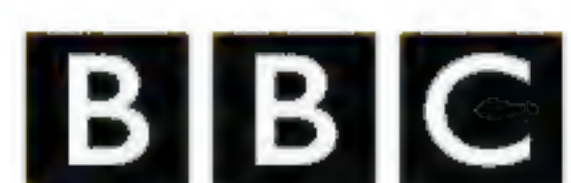


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